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40p

Croat guards mount defiant last stand in Serb siege of Danube town

Zagreb leaders concede fall of Vukovar

From ANNE McELVOY IN ZAGREB AND DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE

CROATIA admitted yesterday that the Danube town of Vukovar had fallen to the Serb-dominated Yugoslav army after an 86-day siege and some of the bitterest combat yet in the conflict.

But fighting was continuing in the heart of Vukovar as up to 1,500 Croatian national guards, unwilling to accept their command's admission that the town was lost, resisted federal troops. The Yugoslav army said its opponents had retreated under heavy shelling to a fortified enclave by the Danube.

The government in Zagreb announced that its forces had fled most of the town, and there was no longer any hope of holding Vukovar, a prime symbol of Croatian pride and resistance. Kresimir Macan, the information ministry spokesman, said: "The biggest part of the town is in army hands. All we can do is try to save civilians." Croat and Yugoslav military officials began holding talks on evacuating civilians and the wounded, according to Ed Koestel, a spokesman for the European Community. He said it was clear that no ceasefire had yet taken hold.

The army command accused Croat national guardsmen of taking hostages, including women and children. "The army has irrefutable proof that during the fighting, Croatian forces have committed great crimes, particularly against Vukovar's Serbian inhabitants," a statement said.

Cyrus Vance, the former American Secretary of State, arrived in Belgrade yesterday with a team of United Nations experts to discover whether conditions existed for deploying peacekeeping forces. Stipe Mesic, the Croat who is the nominal head of the defunct collective Yugoslav federal presidency, called in Austria yesterday for the deployment of UN or EC peacekeeping forces along the Croatian-Serbian frontier.

Romania, Serbia's neighbour and currently chairing the UN Security Council, has offered to mediate in the war. Theodor Stolojan, the Romanian prime minister, had five hours' talks on Saturday with Dragutin Zelenovic, his Serbian counterpart, and Borisav Jovic, the Serbian member of the Yugoslav presidency, met President Iliescu of Romania in Bucharest yesterday.

Croatia, after an emergency cabinet meeting in Zagreb, said it would surrender Vukovar, whose centre is reported to have been almost entirely destroyed in the fighting, on condition that the federal army allows residents hiding inside to leave unhurt. Civilians have taken to their cellars to avoid the air and rocket bombardments which have rained down without respite since Vukovar was cut off nearly three months ago.

Mr Macan appealed for international help and a Red Cross presence to ensure that the army's victory does not turn into a massacre of Croat defenders. While elderly and sick refugees have been allowed to trickle out on the Serb side of the town, there are fears that unofficial Serb forces, including an ultranationalist militia, could perpetrate atrocities when they comb the centre of Vukovar.

About 15,000 residents were left yesterday, among them 500 wounded in the bombed-out cellar hospital and 2,000

children trapped in shelters without fresh water or electricity supplies. Medical supplies, mainly antibiotics and bandages, were being despatched by Red Cross volunteers, who floated them down the Danube. They will be ferried into Vukovar by rowing boat.

Mr Macan said the strongest part of the Croat defence was forced to withdraw on Saturday night and yesterday. "We are worried about what will happen to the civilians. We expect the worst." He said Serb residents were reported to be going through the streets with the army, pointing out houses hiding Croat fighters.

The final federal assault took place as the 13th ceasefire brokered by the EC came into effect on Saturday night and the guns fell silent in the rest of Croatia. But there was never any hope that the truce could be made to apply to Vukovar, where hand-to-hand fighting intensified last week with snipers taking to the cemetery of the main Catholic church and an Orthodox church and shooting at each other from behind tombstones and church towers.

David Chater, the ITN reporter shot in the back while covering the gun battles there on Friday, was said to be in a stable condition after a five-hour operation in Belgrade.

The army has gained full control of Borovo Naselje, the main Croatian access corridor. The loss of Vukovar is a severe blow for the breakaway republic, which had dubbed it "our Stalingrad" for its long resistance to the army.

Milan Dedacovic, the Croatian national guard commander in the town, has accused the government of Franjo Tudjman of not providing enough extra men and weaponry to save the town, possibly because it has its eyes on a future territorial trade-off with Serbia.

With the prize of Vukovar in its hands, the federal army, backed by Serb irregulars, can now sweep forwards to Vinkovci and close off a triangle of land between the rivers Bosut and Vuka, linking up a line of Serb villages. This will give the Serb forces a firm territorial base from which to step up attacks on the eastern Croatian capital of Osijek, which now fears that it will become the next Vukovar.

Truth the casualty, page 12
Diary, page 16



Window on victory: a Serb volunteer soldier guarding a position in Vukovar yesterday

Government rules out rebellion over Europe

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

MINISTERS are now confident that the government will survive the two-day debate on European union this week without a large-scale rebellion. However, Tory nerves on Europe have been further jolted by more sharp criticism from Margaret Thatcher of a single currency.

The potential Tory rebels on greater European integration, who have been outmanoeuvred by the government's care in framing its

motion for the debate on Wednesday and Thursday, will for the most part vote with the government. However, many are planning to warn that it does not mean their votes can be taken for granted on any deal emerging from Maastricht. They will underline the government's difficulties by setting out their own bottom line for continued support.

Mrs Thatcher and Norman Tebbit are expected to come into that category and the government will today be given a forecast of what is to come by the former housing minister Michael Spicer, who will warn that he has always voted for a common market but never for a common country.

In a speech to the Royal Overseas League Mr Spicer will demand that the prime minister spells out the supposed advantages of political union "and to what end it is now proposed that we sacrifice our national independence and the power of the people through Parliament to rule themselves".

Mr Spicer, a former deputy chairman of the Conservative party with no record of rebellion, adds: "The bottom line

for me is the one which draws the divide between what makes for a single market and what aims at a single state. At one end of the spectrum the list of what is unacceptable is clear. This includes a single central bank, a parliament with veto and initiating powers above those of national parliaments and a single European defence and foreign policy."

He also quotes the prime minister in July 1990 as saying that "a single currency means that this country would no longer have the levers of control over interest rates or exchange rate policy... Delors' package for stage three would involve transfer of sovereignty from the United Kingdom and from Parliament of a sort neither government nor Parliament would find themselves able to accept."

Mr Spicer says that he will vote for the government on Thursday but against ratification of any treaty which makes acceptance of a single currency inevitable.

Mrs Thatcher, in California, criticised the EC as ineffectual. Continued on page 22, col 8

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Letters, page 17

Yeltsin swoops to take over Soviet Union's Russian assets

From MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

THE historic transfer of economic power to Russia from the former Soviet authorities took a final step yesterday as Boris Yeltsin published a series of decrees and resolutions designed to secure the economic independence of the Russian Federation and safeguard its financial system.

The Russian measures further undermine the crumbling position of President Gorbachev. They leave the old centre with almost no assets except those which Russia and the other Soviet republics choose to delegate.

The nine documents were transmitted in quick succession by Tass, news agency yesterday and concern everything from control of foreign trade to gold reserves, from the printing of money to wage agreements. The directives take effect immediately unless they are challenged by the Russian parliament.

While the Russian leadership has been threatening to take control of its assets for almost a year, it now has the power and authority to do so. One of Mr Yeltsin's resolutions, which suspends all oil export licences pending a review, caused a sharp jump in the price of oil on world markets when first mentioned on Friday, demonstrating for the first time that Russia is deemed an economic force in its own right.

Shortly before the decrees were published, the so-called "big four" republics - Russia, the Ukraine, Belorussia and Kazakhstan - issued a joint statement effectively disavowing the central economic authorities as brokers for their interests abroad. Released late on Saturday through the Russian foreign ministry, the statement said that officials from Soviet ministries were no longer empowered to negotiate on their behalf.

The statement came less than two days before central and republic officials were due to resume talks with representatives of the Group of Seven world economic powers on ensuring payment of the Soviet Union's 40-billion rouble (\$40 billion at the artificial rate) foreign debt.

In their statement, the four republics said they would assume responsibility for existing financial obligations, but would not be held responsible for "obligations taken on without their agreement by all-union and inter-republican organisations in the name of the USSR after the union has in fact ceased to exist as a single state". Together, the four republics account for 80 per cent of the 287-million Soviet population.

The statement went on to say that the four republics "wish to draw the attention of the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, Gatt, and other international organisations to the fact that the states whose representatives have signed this declaration have not authorised the USSR to represent their interests in these organisations". The wording constituted an open renunciation of the Soviet centre only days after Mr Gorbachev had insisted, after talks with republic leaders, that the Soviet state would continue to operate as a single

Continued on page 22, col 3

Gorbachev speaks up, page 12

Leading article, page 17

Markets expect sharp fall

By GEORGE SIVELL

STOCKBROKERS expect to mark share prices down sharply in the wake of the slide on Wall Street at the end of last week.

They estimate that the FTSE 100 index could fall heavily before recovering by the end of the day. But the strength of recovery depends on the mood in New York, where further selling is expected this afternoon.

Central bankers around the world regard Wall Street's fall on Friday night as largely self-contained in a market that was already overvalued and very near its peak. However, they would not be surprised by sharp marking down and modest selling pressure in the Far East and Europe.

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London mark-down, page 23

TODAY IN THE TIMES

BRATS SHOWBIZ



From Drew Barrymore, of ET fame, to Gregory Scott, a director aged five, the cinema prodigy marches on. David Robinson surveys the brat pack. Page 14

FEELING FLUSH



How do you lose £600,000 a day - every day? Bernard Levin looks at the curious case of a company that zipped through several millions. Page 16

QUESTIONING



Behind the mask... Peter Bernard looks at the tension below the surface in the Orkneys at the start of week 13 of the child abuse enquiry. Page 15

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Classwork to be 40% of GCSE

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

COURSEWORK in some GCSE examinations could account for 40 per cent of marks in future, double the level originally sought by the prime minister and Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary.

Under proposals considered over the weekend by Mr Clarke, his newly-appointed adviser, Lord Griffiths of Fforestfach, has refused to accept that there should be an across-the-board limit of 20 per cent on the amount of marks given for coursework done through the school year

and assessed by the pupils' own teachers. Lord Griffiths, a former adviser to Margaret Thatcher and appointed to the council specifically to force through examination reforms which Mr Clarke believed were being blocked by the educational establishment, has recommended that coursework should account for up to 40 per cent of marks in certain subjects.

John Major and Mr Clarke have been determined to reduce the amount of coursework because they believe it is

open to abuse and reduces standards and asked Lord Griffiths, as the new chairman of the Schools Examination and Assessment Council, to oversee a return to end of term examinations similar to the old O-levels. Mr Clarke is due to announce his final decision later this week.

Lord Griffiths has told Mr Clarke that between 30 per cent and 40 per cent of marks should be judged on coursework. Continued on page 22, col 7

Education, page 29

Marlow up in arms over a shamrock sprig

By TIM JONES

A TWIG of shamrock in a swan's beak on a coat of arms has caused bitter division in the genteel Thames-side town of Marlow, Buckinghamshire. Amid accusations that plans to remove the twig are based on anti-Irish prejudice, the dispute may be referred to the Commission for Racial Equality.

The proposal, to be debated next month by the town council, has so incensed Francis Murray, a former Tory mayor of Irish descent, who paid £3,000 for the memorial bearings to be executed, that he has asked the commission whether the council can be prosecuted.

Mr Murray has also told the Liberal Democrat-controlled council that as they are clearly embarrassed by the design, it should be scrapped in its entirety and replaced with a coat of arms of which they approve. He is demanding

the return of the £3,000 so he can donate it to "more deserving causes".

His stand is being supported by Diana McCall, another former Tory mayor of Irish descent, who decided during her term of office four years ago it was high time the picturesque town with its famous bridge and beautiful weir should have its own crest.

When local firms failed to back the venture, Mr Murray and his family put up the money and the shamrock was included at the suggestion of Dr Ellis Tomlinson, a fellow of the Heraldry Society, who said it was customary for the benefactor of a coat of arms to be acknowledged.

A grand reception to unveil the design, attended by Commander John Freemantle, the Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire, was marred by a protest petition signed by 370

Marlovians and by pickets who carried placards saying "Get rid of the twig".

As they campaigned for control during last May's local elections, the Liberal Democrats promised that the shamrock would go and were delighted when "an old Marlow family" gave an anonymous donation of the £1,200 which the College of Arms said it would cost to have the offending sprig removed.

Mr Murray said "The crest is obviously an embarrassment to them so I suggest they come up with their own idea. Although my father came to the town more than 60 years ago it seems you have to be there for hundreds of years to be accepted."

Maurice Oram, the Liberal Democrat mayor, believes the crest, which bears the legend - "We Strive for the Best" - should be retained once the shamrock has been removed.



Beakful of trouble: the disputed crest

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Army bandsmen defy bombers and continue their tour

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THE 27 bandsmen of the Blues and Royals took the stage of a Manchester theatre last night determined to play on less than 48 hours after finding themselves targets of a bomb which killed their attackers in St Albans, Hertfordshire.

Yesterday Major Roger Tomlinson, their musical director, said the band continued playing on Friday after the blast nearby. They were aware of what the noise might be and only stopped when police called for an evacuation. The audience first insisted on standing to give the band thunderous applause and lined the road as their coach left, still clapping.

"All the time we have a public like that to play for it makes me proud to do the job I am doing," said the major, whose band plays at public concerts two or three times a week in the autumn and winter.

The band's members, target for an attempted attack last June, were asked by Major

Tomlinson at the weekend how they felt. He said although some of his men were shocked and others were apprehensive they were all determined the show would go on "especially given the public response". Today they will continue their programme with a concert in Bradford.

As they prepared to play last night at the Tameside theatre in Ashton-under-Lyne amid heightened police security Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, visited the scene of the St Albans bombing, where a couple died, and said: "Those who live by terror will die by terror. Here the victims are the culprits. We are dealing with vile and wicked people who perpetrate them. The police are now fairly clear that the two bodies are the people who were actually priming the bomb."

Scotland Yard detectives suspect that the man and woman were part of an IRA active service unit living secretly in the bed-sitter land of north London within easy

reach of St Albans by road or rail. In the past two years police have built up evidence that active service units have been using a network of bedsitters rented out for three or six months across north-west London and a number have been identified. If the bombing had been successful the bombers could have been on their way back to London via the motorway network as the device exploded.

Yesterday, as police made a fresh appeal for public help in trying to identify the couple and for any sign of a getaway car, an intensive search of the bombing scene outside a disused bank in the St Albans civic centre complex continued. Security round the St Albans concert on Friday was tight, leading police to believe that the bombers realised they could not get close to the concert hall and had to think of other ways to reach the band. The concert began at 8pm and was due to end at about 10.15 pm. The site was checked in mid-evening and nothing found.

by the bank at that stage. Police believe the couple died as they primed the bomb, possibly hidden in a bag, at about 9.55pm. The bomb contained up to 7lb of Semtex and a timer for little more than 15 minutes. It may have been intended to be activated by the removal of a wooden pin which set the timer running, giving the bombers time to escape.

His views were endorsed by the Roger Pannone, chairman of the conference, and a leading solicitor in the field of litigation arising from major disasters. He recalled one solicitor telephoning him during the legal action concerning Opren, the anti-arthritis drug, and asking how to go about issuing a writ.

Stephen Perrett, of Davies Arnold Cooper, said: "As the legal aid bill looms ever larger it is subsidising greed and inefficiency. There are reputable litigators and they should be recognised as such, rather than every Joe Bloggs conveyancer in the High Street, who has in some cases never even been in a court, adding to the problems of our clients."

Mr McIntosh, speaking at the conference "Cases of Utmost Urgency", organised by the Northern Circuit of the Bar and the Manchester and Liverpool Law Societies, called for tougher policing of the legal profession to ensure that only those capable of doing work in specialist fields be allowed to do so.

Lawyers warn of novices in court

By LIN JENKINS

LEADING lawyers are demanding tougher rules to protect the public from inexperienced solicitors who are turning in record numbers to litigation as their traditional work of conveying dries up in the poor economic climate.

They claim that poorly-trained and incompetent solicitors joining American-style group legal actions are costing their clients, and the legal aid fund, a fortune for doing little. The results, they maintain, are already in evidence with the increase in negligence claims against non-specialist litigation solicitors.

The problem was debated at the weekend at a conference at Manchester University where David McIntosh, senior partner in Davies Arnold Cooper called on the Law Society to recognise the specialists of particular solicitors "in order to protect the public from the incompetence of too many of these 'me too' lawyers".

He noted that with the emergence of large group damages claims, more and more solicitors were becoming involved in areas where they had no experience. The current tranquiliser addiction action involved no fewer than 1,700 different claims.

"Non-specialist lawyers in

this field may find themselves out of their depth and a danger to their own clients, a nuisance to the courts and an unnecessary drain on the public purse," Mr McIntosh told the conference.

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Widow's grief: Paula Magee, widowed on her fourth wedding anniversary, follows her husband's coffin

Killings revive calls for internment

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE three latest victims of sectarian violence in Northern Ireland were buried yesterday amid renewed speculation about a return of internment of terrorist suspects without trial.

The funerals of Fergus Magee and Dessie Rodgers, both Roman Catholics, and John Lavery, a Protestant, took place in their home town of Lurgan, Co Armagh. All three were shot by the Loyalist Ulster Volunteer Force on Thursday night in retaliation for four IRA murders earlier last week. Speaking at the

funeral of Mr Magee, the Most Rev Francis Brooks, Roman Catholic Bishop of Down, urged that there should be no retaliation for killings which he said were designed only to increase tension between the two communities.

"I beg all people whatever their religious allegiance to make clear their condemnation of these murders and to discourage by every lawful means in their power anyone urging retaliation," Bishop Brooks told hundreds of mourners. "Let no one think of putting any more families

through the agony and sorrow suffered by these Lurgan and Craigavon families and by the many in Belfast recently."

Yesterday, it seemed unlikely that the government would support the re-introduction of internment, a policy tried in the province between 1971 and 1975 to disastrous effect, partly because it was executed poorly. Senior army and RUC officers are believed to have been reluctant to accept their advice, barring a massive deterioration in the situation.

Ministers appear to accept the argument of critics who say internment would only inflame the situation, would further revive militant republicanism and provide the IRA with a badly needed rhetorical stick to use against Britain in its propaganda war.

Elsewhere in Northern Ireland yesterday police recovered a mortar tube near Kilturk in Co Fermanagh. The weapon is believed to have been fired at a police patrol in the area on Saturday night but hit a concrete gate post, causing no injury.

Prince visits furthest reaches of his domain

THE Prince of Wales, as Duke of Cornwall, will pay a formal visit to the furthest reaches of his domain tomorrow when he attends the centenary celebrations of the Council of the Isles of Scilly. The programme includes a service in the parish church of St Mary the Virgin, a walk about and civic reception in the town hall of St Mary's.

As the inhabitants of what they like to call the fortunate islands are quick to point out, they are not part of Cornwall. They share police and health authorities and some library services, but otherwise are administratively independent, an arrangement unique in the United Kingdom.

The entire archipelago, which is owned by the Duchy, is designated an area of outstanding natural beauty, and supports several species of birds, mammals and plants which do not occur on the

mainland. Only six of the islands, including Tresco, with its famous sub-tropical gardens, are inhabited; the remaining 49 are all classified as sanctuaries to which access is restricted at certain times of the year.

The islands, 28 miles from Land's End, are the rocky peaks of a single submerged land mass, and there are indications that some of the inundations may have occurred relatively recently. Speculation that they were the Hesperides, or the Isles of the Blest, of Greek and Roman mythology, inspired by the exceptional number of ancient burial mounds, is now discounted, as is the legend that they are the remnants of the lost land of Lyonesse ruled by King Arthur from his castle at Tintagel and later destroyed by some natural catastrophe.

The Spanish Armada was ordered in 1588 to seize the islands as the first step in its

planned invasions of Britain. In 1646 Prince Charles, later Charles II, fleeing from Cromwell's army, spent six weeks at Star Castle before embarking for France, and the islands remained the last bastion of the Royalists in England.

In the 18th and 19th centuries the islanders lived for the most part in wretched poverty, relieved only by the plunder from numerous shipwrecks. They even petitioned the public through the columns of *The Times* to relieve their "extreme distress".

Tourism - 100,000 people a year visit the islands - and the commercial growing of flowers and potatoes for mainland markets have since come to their rescue, but they are not without problems. One of the biggest is an acute housing shortage. Although the total population is fewer than 2,000, the demand from second-home owners has pushed prices beyond the means of young working couples.

The cost of living is high because most goods have to be ferried from the mainland. There have been complaints of high-handed behaviour by visiting trawlers last year after a spate of thefts from yachts in St Mary's harbour.

Hampstead takes on car owners

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

HAMPSTEAD will be given back to the chattering classes this morning when the local council launches an onslaught on the commuters who have threatened to take over London's best known literary village.

In recent years the steep and narrow streets where Keats once trod have become clogged by commuters exploiting the lack of parking restrictions to leave their cars close to the centre of London. Even the prospect of a journey to the City on the notorious Northern Line has not been enough to deter the motorised invaders so Camden council has decided on yet tougher action.

From this morning anyone wanting to park in Hampstead between 9am and 8pm will have to buy parking vouchers at 60p per half hour. Failure to display a voucher in a wind-screen will bring a £30 instant fine although residents will be able to buy annual parking permits at £75 a year.

The scheme has outraged some residents, who now face the prospect of paying to leave their Volvos on the street while they shop or pop into one of the area's charming

restaurants. But the council insists that action is needed. Bill Saunders, vice-chairman of Camden's planning and transport committee, said: "With its narrow streets, the Hampstead area suffers more than most and the present disorganised parking on street corners and at junctions cannot be allowed to continue."

Selling vouchers through newsagents and other local outlets the council has avoided the need to put up parking meters or to clutter streets with "pay and display" machines.

Disgruntled Hampstead residents may take some comfort from the experience of the burghers of Bath and Brighton. Bath introduced parking vouchers four years ago. "Avon county council, which runs the scheme, says it has been a great success, encouraging people to use car parks or to move on after a brief visit to the city centre."

Brighton, which was the first town to replace meters with vouchers, is even more ecstatic about the scheme. "We are glad Hampstead has finally caught on to a very good idea," said a council spokeswoman.

PC held in customs swoop

A POLICEMAN was among 20 arrested yesterday in a customs swoop on an alleged £5 million gaming machine fraud.

More than 300 video poker machines were seized from 200 pubs, clubs and other premises in north London, Customs and Excise said. The operation, codenamed Janus, involved customs men, the Metropolitan Police complaints squad and Hertfordshire police and began at dawn, lasting into late afternoon.

Eighteen men and two women, all British and one said to be a serving Metropolitan police officer, were being held at London Customs offices last night. Customs and Excise said that the raids marked the culmination of nine-month VAT investigation into an organisation supplying the machines.

It is alleged the premises involved did not have gaming licences and did not pay VAT or gaming tax on takings. "The loss to the revenue is put at £5 million," a Customs and Excise spokesman said.

£500,000 in jewels taken

A jeweller in Hatton Garden, London, was robbed of £500,000 of gold jewellery yesterday by a man armed with a gun who told him that his wife had been kidnapped and would be harmed if he did not co-operate.

John Carter, owner of S & L Jewellers, was forced to unlock his safe in the shop. The robber, who wore a crash helmet, handcuffed Mr Carter and tied his legs together. Mr Carter later freed himself and raised the alarm. Police found his wife had not been kidnapped.

Two killed in coach crash

A man and a woman were killed last night when their Ford Fiesta collided with a coach and burst into flames on a road outside Brands Hatch motor racing circuit in Kent.

The driver of the 53-seater private coach, which had no passenger-identification board, was asleep but was treated for shock at the scene. One fire officer said: "The car was right under the coach. It was badly crushed. There was nothing we could do for the two people."

PGs stabbed in struggle

Four policemen were taken to hospital, two with stab wounds, when they tried to arrest a man believed to have a gun, at a house in Croydon, south London, yesterday. The four male officers were treated at the Mayday hospital in Croydon.

One had two stab wounds to the back, another had a stab wound in the side and a head injury, a third was bitten on the leg, and a fourth was suffering from shock. A man aged 24 was arrested. A gun found at the house was found to be a replica.

DPP sells house

Sir Allan Green, the former Director of Public Prosecutions who resigned over allegations of kebab-crawling, has put his house in Primrose Hill, London, up for sale at £725,000. Sir Allan, who received a £20,000 pay-off after his resignation, had owned the five-storey Victorian house for 20 years. Agents said the house, which includes a self-contained "granny flat", had been "well maintained".

Factory blaze

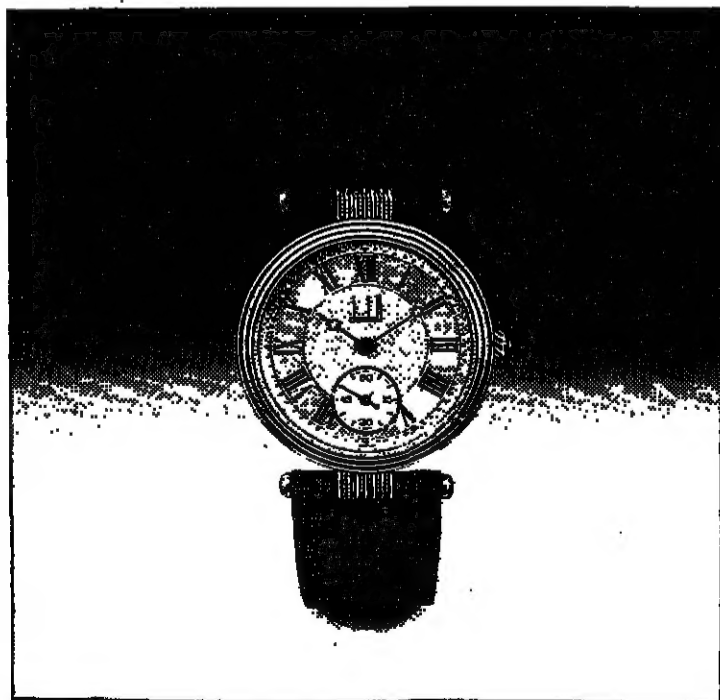
A garage and a dye works were destroyed in a blaze in the City of London yesterday. More than 60 firefighters tackled the fire in Chequer Street, near the Barbican arts centre, and at one stage had to pull back after fears the building might collapse. One fireman was slightly injured and treated at the scene. The cause was under investigation.

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dunhill

ALFRED DUNHILL

VISIT ALFRED DUNHILL IN LONDON AT DUKE STREET, ST JAMES'S, THE BURLINGTON ARCADE, 5 SLOANE STREET AND AT ALFRED DUNHILL IN HARRODS AND SELFLEDGES. WATCHES ALSO AVAILABLE AT WATCHES OF SWITZERLAND LTD, THE GOLDSMITHS GROUP, HARRODS WATCH DEPARTMENT AND LEADING JEWELLERS.

Welsh fear new oil province off coast

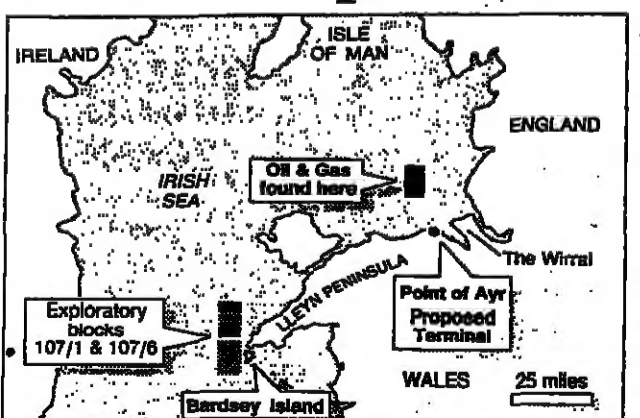
By MICHAEL MCCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

A PLAN to build an oil terminal on a protected part of the Welsh coast has highlighted environmental worries about the Irish Sea becoming a new oil and gas province.

Conservation groups are opposing the proposal by Hamilton Brothers, which brought ashore the first North Sea oil in 1975 and has made the first significant strike of commercially recoverable oil in the Irish Sea, in Liverpool Bay.

Two things worry conservationists. The first is that the economic pressure to develop oil and gas finds may overturn environmental safeguards. Hamilton wants to site the terminal on a part of the Clwyd coast recently designated by the county as "green barrier land", unsuitable for development. Despite opposition from residents, some members and officials of the county council favour waiving the ruling because of the jobs and investment the terminal would bring.

The second concern is that drilling will be much closer inshore than generally in the North Sea. The oil find is 15 miles out, compared with 80 to 200 miles for many of the North Sea fields. Next year, Hamilton will begin drilling five miles from Bardsey Island, a bird reserve at the



tip of the Llyn peninsula, recognised as one of the most beautiful stretches of coastline in North Wales. It will do so under licences granted by the energy department 18 months ago despite opposition from the Nature Conservancy Council, at that time the government's conservation advisory body.

The oil and gas future of the Irish Sea is seen by some environmentalists as highlighting Britain's lack of a coastal policy. Nancy Harrison, marine policy officer for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, said: "These are vulnerable and important parts of the coast for nature conservation, and there could be considerable dangers locally of oil spills, yet there is no strategic planning taking this into account. The government should consider what they

are putting at risk before they just develop these resources as rapidly as possible."

Roger Mowll, spokesman for Hamilton, said the company recognised that the coastline was valuable. "We are particularly anxious to understand people's concerns," he said, adding that development would be undertaken step by step in consultation with legitimate environmental interests.

Hamilton has a long record of success in oil and gas exploration in the North Sea and turned its attention to the other side of Britain last year, when it began exploring Irish Sea block 110/13, which at its closest points is about 12 miles from the Clwyd, Wirral and Lancashire coasts. In July last year it discovered a big natural gas field. Shortly afterwards, the company

made the first significant oil strike in the waters between Britain and Ireland. It is guarded about the exact amount but describes it as substantial.

The company wants to bring oil and gas ashore through a terminal at Point of Air in Clwyd, on the tip of the Dee estuary, one of the most important places in Europe for wildfowl and wading birds, with three protection designations.

The company says it is technically and environmentally the most suitable site, but objections have come from the Dee Estuary Conservation Group, representing 22 wildlife bodies, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the Council for the Protection of Rural Wales. The Countryside Council for Wales, the government's advisers, has issued a holding objection and is considering its position.

Clwyd county planning committee will consider the application next month. If it permits itself to depart from the green barrier land designation, the Welsh Office will need to give consent. David Hunt, the Welsh secretary, has declared "an interest in the affair because of objections to the terminal from his constituents across the Dee in the Wirral, so the matter would be handled by the minister of state, Sir Wyn Roberts.

Anti-graffiti paint cover-ups blamed for fireball deaths

By TONY DAVE

SOME fatal fires in large buildings such as tower blocks are being blamed on paint which has built up in several layers in long staircases and corridors. The risk that such paint could create a fireball within a minute of catching alight was highlighted by some experts after the King's Cross fire, which killed 31 people four years ago today.

The government has ordered the Fire Research Station at Borehamwood, Hertfordshire, to investigate the question. The result could require the expensive renovation of many apartment blocks, office buildings, schools and hospitals.

Gary Duggan, a fire consultant, said: "The research is welcome, but if only the King's Cross investigation had been more positive, the hazards associated with paint fire would have become more widely recognised and some lives could have been saved."

Mr Duggan was materials adviser to London Underground at the time of the King's Cross disaster and has since carried out many large-scale fire tests on paint.

One of the lives which he believes could have been saved was that of Raymond Assouline, a student aged 22 who fell to his death trying to escape a fire at Wickway Court, Southwark, south London, earlier this year. The fire started in a sofa dumped at the bottom of the tower block's stairwell and, it is believed, quickly ignited the multi-layered paint, creating a fireball which raced up the stairwell and along corridors.

Southwark council acted

quickly after receiving scientific advice that anti-graffiti paint applied on top of old paint was the probable cause of the fireball. It stripped walls coated with similar paint in other tower blocks back to the plaster and applied one layer of fire-retardant paint.

It is still awaiting the results of a Fire Research Station investigation into the blaze, but a spokeswoman said: "As soon as housing chiefs learnt that the paint layers were a probable cause, they decided to remove them from other council buildings as quickly as possible. It is better to be safe than sorry."

Sally Keeble, the council leader, said: "The Wickway Court fire was a terrible tragedy and has major implications for housing throughout inner London."

Philip Graves, an executive of Tost Coatings, a specialist paint company, says that the Southwark fire was one of several with similar characteristics which occurred in the stairwells and corridors of tower blocks.

He says in the current issue of *Fire Prevention Magazine* that the fire hazard of walls and ceilings increases with the addition of each decorative finish, and that the usual remedy for dealing with graffiti has been to paint over offending phrases whenever they appeared.

"If this happened, for example, once a month, with an overall redecoration every six years, some areas of wall could have 72 coats of paint added to the original layer," he says.

Mr Graves adds that a fire close to these layers of paint

will create a fast and intense build-up of heat in the air, similar to that of a DIY hot-air blower. "Swelling of successive films will result in the coatings coming into contact with flames and the result could be flash fire or fireball effects."

However, Stanley Ames, the scientist in charge of the Fire Research Station investigation, said it was too early to blame that layers of paint create the intensity of heat claimed by some other experts.

Mr Duggan and his former colleagues at London Underground believe the government investigation should have begun much earlier. They are convinced that the small fire which started beneath an escalator at King's Cross developed into a fireball because of many layers of paint on the ceiling of the escalator shaft.

They complain that the Health and Safety Executive failed to take samples of the paint at the start of the investigation and were reluctant to accept its significance afterwards, a view confirmed by the official investigation into the disaster.

Sir Keith Bright, former chairman of London Transport, said yesterday: "Our attempts to alert the official investigation to the dangers of the paint were dismissed as an attempt to avoid blame."

"That was an appalling attitude, because we could be criticised equally for applying layer after layer of paint to the ceiling. We just wanted lessons to be learned and future tragedies avoided."



Show of hands; children from the Sylvia Young theatre school who, with a medley from *Oliver!*, will open a gala at the Players Theatre, central London, tonight to raise money for the BBC Children in Need appeal. The gala, with a Victorian theme, will also feature music hall acts

Drivers lose millions to bogus debt agencies

By KEVIN EASON MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S biggest finance lenders are trying to crack down on fraudulent vehicle transfer agencies, who are swindling millions of pounds from motorists unable to keep up payments on cars.

The lenders are warning drivers to avoid vehicle transfer agencies who offer to take on their debts — as long as they take the car too.

The Finance Houses Association, which is to start a consumer detection agency, has more than 620 cases on

file in which the repayments have not been kept up by the transfer agency, leaving the motorist with a debt but no car. Drivers have lost an estimated £4.4 million. The police are also investigating 189 alleged cases of fraud involving transfer agencies. The association is worried that hundreds more cases will appear as the effect of the recession becomes clear.

Although no figures are available for car repossession, there are more than five

million motor finance deals with payments outstanding. More than 1.8 million credit agreements were signed in the year to September, accounting for 57 per cent of new and used car deals. Analysts believe that up to one in 12 car owners using finance could be in serious arrears, which would be more than 400,000 people. Companies have become victims too.

Neil Grant, the association's director, said: "The scale of the problem is grow-

ing at a disturbing rate. There is a strong fly-by-night element in all this and vehicle transfer agencies are operating in a legal twilight. Handing over the car to an unknown company is very dangerous."

The association says that some agencies sell the cars they have taken to unsuspecting buyers.

The Office of Fair Trading has warned consumer credit licence holders about acting as vehicle transfer agencies and is also warning the public to

beware. Even though a car is handed over, in law the debt cannot be transferred to a third party.

Finance companies are now entering the names of vehicle transfer agencies on a computer register to ensure they are not carrying out fraudulent deals. The register is operated by Infolink, Britain's biggest credit information business.

The Times refuses to carry advertisements for vehicle transfer agencies on the advice of the association.

UK bosses travel in style

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

BRITISH businessmen struggling to survive the recession, still demand the best when travelling for their company.

More British directors are entitled to first-class air travel than their rivals in France, Germany or Switzerland, according to a detailed survey for American Express.

Thirty-five per cent of British directors fly in luxury of first class, compared with only 19 per cent from France, says the survey which studied returns from more than 2,000 companies. The survey also shows that 60 per cent of senior British managers fly in business class, compared with 42 per cent from Germany.

Seventy-nine per cent of British directors stay in five or four-star hotels, compared with 33 per cent from France — a privilege also given to 64 per cent of senior UK managers compared with only 18 per cent from France.

Britain spent 5.8 per cent of its gross domestic product on travel and entertainment last year compared with 4.4 for The Netherlands, 4.3 for Germany, 4.1 for France and only 2.8 for Switzerland.

Orkney enquiry may be speeded

By KERRY GILL

THE future credibility of the Orkney judicial enquiry could depend on a decision today by the islands' council on whether it can afford to continue being legally represented.

The enquiry, into how nine local children were seized from their homes earlier this year after allegations of sexual abuse, has already cost £2 million since it began at the end of August and is expected to cost between £10 million and £12 million if it continues for more than a year. Some lawyers believe it could last until March 1993.

The council's bill is running at £36,000 a week and its members will be asked to vote on a motion to pull out unless funding is provided by the government. The Scottish Office has already refused to take on funding for Paul Lee, the council's social work director, who has been left without legal counsel. His costs had been met by the British Association of Social Workers, but the association said last week that it could no longer afford the legal fees.

If Orkney decides it can no longer afford representation,

Strathclyde regional council may also pull out. There is speculation that other groups, such as Highland regional council and the Royal Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, might then feel it was not worth continuing. The huge cost of the enquiry clearly was not foreseen by the government, which believed it would last only a few months. There has also been criticism of fees charged by lawyers.

Today Lord Clyde, the enquiry chairman, is expected to make an announcement about the structure of the enquiry. It is thought that he is anxious to speed things up.

Later this week, Orkney council hopes to meet Michael Forsyth, the Scottish health minister, when a delegation will plead for government funding. The government agreed at the outset to pay the legal costs for Sue Millar, the senior social worker behind the seizure, and was forced to take over the costs of the RSSPCC when it said it could no longer afford legal representation.

Behind the mask, page 15

Impresario makes no show about being a top earner

By LIN JENKINS

FOR a man who started his career earning £14 a week after leaving college, Cameron Mackintosh will give scant attention to the news that he is one of the country's highest paid businessmen.

He is named in the Brown Shipley Growth Companies register, which identifies the top 2,000 fastest growing private companies and earnings of those who run them, as probably the second highest paid director. The register does not disclose how much he earned, but concludes that since Mr Mackintosh and his two fellow directors shared £6,500,000, it was reasonable to assume that the lion's share went to the name on the headed note paper.

The theatrical impresario and producer of musicals is said to have a personal fortune in excess of £60 million, and, like many men with the Midas touch, prefers to work rather than worry about how to spend his rewards.

With no wife or family to support, Mr Mackintosh could spend all the money on himself. Maybe he feels in need of a new home to go



Mackintosh: ploughing cash back into West End with his turreted Nash house overlooking Regent's Park, his Hampshire and six bed-roomed farmhouse in the South of France.

However, the 45-year-old son of a half-Scottish timber merchant and his Maltese wife, is more likely to continue funding his singular passion, the theatre. With successes such as *Cats*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *Miss Saigon*, *Les Misérables* and *Five Guys Named Moe* running in the West End, Mr Mackintosh has developed an interest in ploughing his money back into the West End theatre.

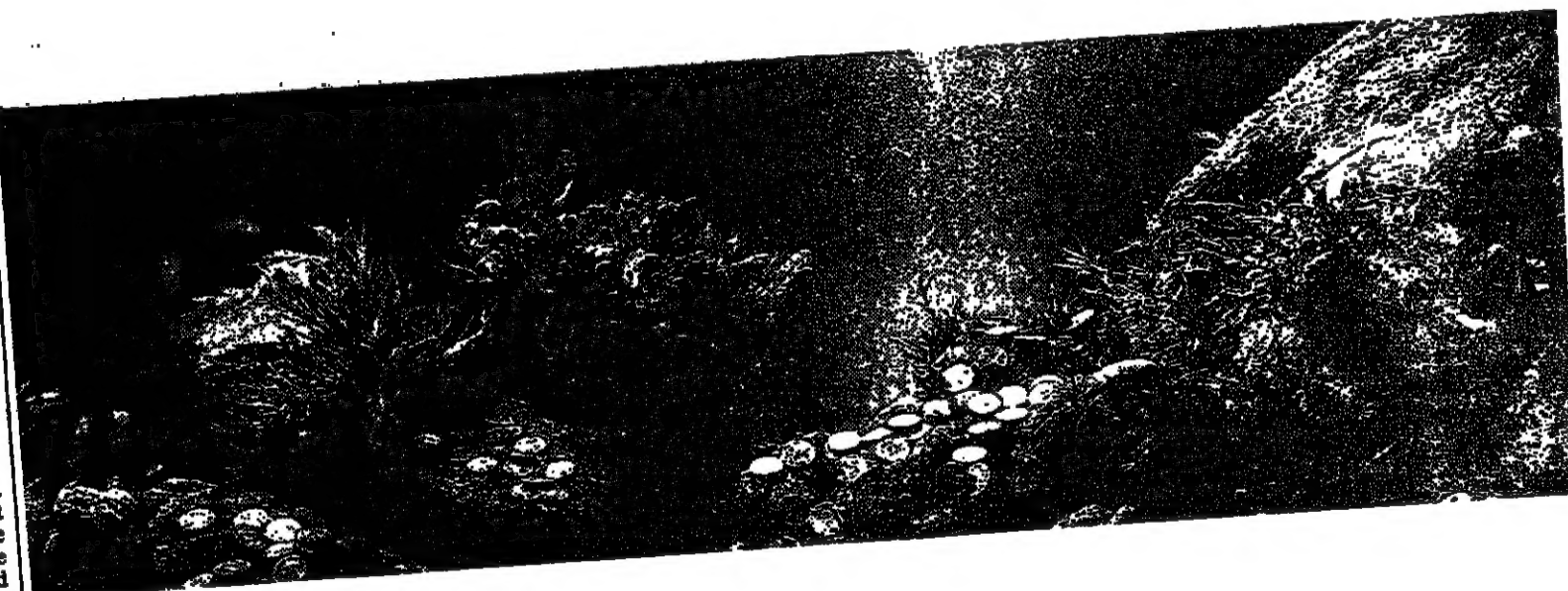
In February he bought a 20 per cent stake in the

Prince of Wales and Prince Edward theatres, and recently increased his share to 50 per cent. The owning company, a subsidiary of Lord Delfont's First Leisure group, has just announced the acquisition of the Strand Theatre and the renaming of the company to Delfont Mackintosh Theatres.

Mr Mackintosh may continue to give gifts to the performing arts. He already has the honour of having given the largest donation from an individual when he gave almost £1 million to the National Theatre for classical musicals, and he provided £1.75 to endow Oxford University's first professorship in drama and musical theatre.

Should he need the advice of an old hand, William Brown, a broker at Lloyds and the "uncrowned king of the market for disaster insurance", may be called. Mr Brown has again emerged at the top of the list, having earned some £9 million, but will claim as always that the money is not in his wage packet and went on other projects. Perhaps his first piece of advice will be simple: that you do not discuss how much you earn or how you spend it.

More and more Merseyside companies are announcing record profits — it must be something to do with the water.



These days there's a real aura of success about Merseyside. Big name local organisations like Littlewoods, Vauxhall, Mersey Docks & Harbour Company and Barclaycard are all reporting record profits or investing heavily in the area, and hundreds of new businesses are opening their doors each month.

It's a time of optimism and opportunity — the right time for your business to make a move towards Merseyside.

Test the waters now. For information on premises and development land in prime waterfront locations, along with expert advice on the best grants and finance options available, write today to Harvey Sunderland at Dept. 58, Merseyside Development Corporation, Royal Liver Building, Pier Head, Liverpool L3 1JH or dial 100 and ask for FREEPHONE MERSEYSIDE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.



For a New Wave of Opportunities

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Divorced men go to an earlier grave

By ADAM FRESCO

DIVORCED men are more likely than their married counterparts to die early and they drink and smoke more heavily, according to a report on the links between relationship breakdown and physical and mental health.

The study, published tomorrow by One Plus One, which carries out research into marriages and partnerships, has found that both men and women in a good marriage suffer less stress than divorced people.

According to another study, the divorce rate in Britain — which is the highest in Europe — has damaging effects on the economy, costing billions of pounds a year.

George Brown, a divorce lawyer, writing in a booklet *The Decay of Marriage*, published today, says: "Income support in 1988/89 was £3.2 billion and I think it is fair to say that by 1992 it will be £5 billion. All the costs are rising significantly and, coupled with invisible costs like crime, policing and absenteeism, they will rise to the £10 billion mark next year." He claims that the costs are so great that

if Western civilisation is to survive "it is necessary to revive marriage as the foundation".

The One Plus One study shows that divorced men aged 35 to 45 face twice the risk of a premature death compared with their married counterparts.

Nearly 55 per cent of divorced men in the same age bracket will smoke compared with 35 per cent of married men. For women in the same age group the figures are similar — 54 per cent compared with 30 per cent. A divorced man will drink almost double the amount of his married counterpart. Divorced men are twice as likely

to die from heart disease and are 2.4 times more likely to die from a stroke.

The organisation wants more government funding for agencies to help people overcome relationship problems before they become too big to solve and lead to divorce.

The report says: "There is both conclusive evidence to show that marriage is a 'healthy environment' associated with lower mortality and morbidity and strong evidence that the process of divorce leaves men, women and children vulnerable to ill health."

Penny Mansfield, deputy director of One Plus One, said that a good marriage acted as a buffer against the stresses of life. "We want more bodies around to support those people that are going through a bad time in their marriage."

The Decay of Marriage (Family Education Trust, Wickham, Milton Keynes, MK19 6BU; £2)

Marital Breakdown and the Health of the Nation (One Plus One, Central Middlesex Hospital, Acton Lane, London NW10 7NS; £7.50)

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Watchdog criticises secrecy in NHS

By JILL SHERMAN
SOCIAL SERVICES
CORRESPONDENT

HEALTH authorities are becoming more secretive and less accountable to the public, patients' watchdogs claim today. A survey by the Association of Community Health Councils shows that fewer than a third of the authorities hold regular monthly meetings in public.

Nearly three-quarters of the 212 community health councils in England and Wales say their health authorities discuss important matters in private. Councils have lost their automatic right to attend health authority meetings as non-voting observers with speaking rights.

Nearly one-third of health councils say they have not been consulted on general contract plans that health authorities are drawing up with hospitals, and one in five councils reported problems with consultation procedures. The report recommends that councils should have the right to full involvement in the planning of services.



Not forgotten: a Jewish ex-serviceman at the Cenotaph in London yesterday for a parade to recall fallen comrades and the millions murdered in the Holocaust

Chatline addict calls for ban

A WOMAN who was addicted to chatlines and ran up telephone bills of £29,000 yesterday called for chatlines to be banned or limited to ten-minute calls.

At King's Lynn crown court on Friday Sarah Baxter, aged 28, of married quarters, RAF Marham, Norfolk, was given an 18-month prison sentence, suspended for two years, for evading payment of £4,729 to BT and obtaining a telephone line by deception.

She said yesterday she became addicted to chatlines after becoming depressed. She rented a phone in 1989 under her previous name of Pearson, but after receiving a £4,729 bill said Mrs Pearson had moved and that her name was Marovich. She used other false names to avoid payment.

Churchill is uncensored

Three albums containing unpublished photographs of Winston Churchill as prime minister in the second world war are expected to make up to £25,000 when they are auctioned at Sotheby's in London on December 12.

Some of the 470 official pictures were censored because they showed armaments or installations too clearly or portrayed him looking tired. The albums, presented to him by the war cabinet, cover mainly his home and overseas tours between 1940 and 1945.

Enquiry opens on cell death

An enquiry was launched yesterday after William John Robertson, aged 40, who had been detained under the provisions of the Mental Health Act, was found hanged in a cell at Bournemouth police station. He had earlier been examined by a police surgeon.

The police will investigate whether Mr Robertson, a single and unemployed man, of Bournemouth, but originally from Aberdeen, had been properly supervised. The enquiry will be overseen by the Police Complaints Authority.

Kidnap charges

Mark Evans and Sheila Stroud from Staunton, near Gloucester, are to appear before Cheltenham magistrates today, charged with kidnap and attempted murder after Ivor Stokke and his friend Pauline Leyshon, both of Gloucester, were badly injured when their burning car plunged from a 250ft cliff. The incident was at Barrow Wake viewpoint, Birdlip, near Gloucester, on Friday.

Arsenic fears

Thousands of gallons of water feared to contain arsenic and aluminium began to overflow yesterday from the disused Wheal Jane tin mine in Cornwall. The owners are pumping the overflowing water into a holding reservoir, where some metals will be removed by chemical process. National Rivers Authority scientists are testing samples from the Carnon river, into which the mine water ultimately flows.

Cornish road plan rejected

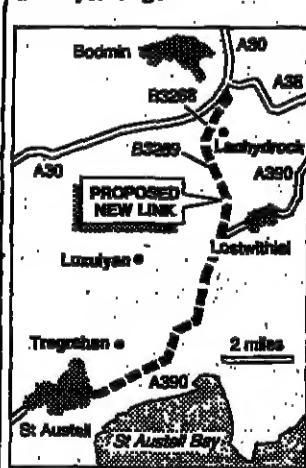
By MARCUS BINNEY

JUBILANT campaigners in Cornwall are celebrating the county council's rejection of a £28 million road proposal which, they said, would damage beautiful landscape and intrude on two of the county's finest gardens.

The road was intended to form a link between St Austell and the A30/38 near Bodmin. Objectors said, however, that other, less damaging alternatives through exhausted china clay workings had not been properly examined.

Giles Clotworthy, of the National Trust, said: "The proposed road alignment would have profoundly disturbed the peace and tranquility of Lanhydrock, one of the trust's most popular properties in the county."

Tregrehan gardens, north-east of St Austell, also affected by the proposals, were established in the 18th century by the ancestors of Tom Hudson, the present owner, and opened to the public for the first time a few years ago.



Train drivers to use simulators

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Rail is introducing a high-tech simulator designed to provide drivers with the kind of training given to airline pilots.

The £1 million simulator, the most advanced of its kind in Europe, will be used to prepare about 600 Network SouthEast train drivers for the arrival of the new generation of Networker trains which will come into operation on Kent Link lines between 1992 and 1995. Train drivers used to 40-year-old rolling stock will be able to retrain on the simulator, giving them experience driving BR's most advanced commuter trains in all weather conditions, without having to leave the sidings at Waterloo station.

Sitting in a mock-up of the Networker cab, drivers will see a film of the route through the windscreen. The digitalised video picture can be altered by the instructor to present drivers with real-life situations, including signal changes, power failures, emergency stops, a passenger trapped in the doors, snow, fog, and even a cow on the line.

The simulator is based on a prototype developed by SNCF, the French national railway, after a series of rail disasters between 1985 and 1988, which demonstrated that traditional training failed to equip drivers with the ability to cope with the unexpected.

Chris Green, Network SouthEast's managing director, said: "A few minutes in the cab is sufficient to create the realism of driving. The real value in this equipment comes not from learning how to drive the train, but from how to respond to special situations."

SNCF has some 36 simulators in service providing refresher courses for its 16,000 train drivers. Network SouthEast plans to extend its experiment, and ultimately the system could be used throughout the BR network if government funding were made available.

The arrival of the Networker trains, part of a £800 million scheme to modernise Kent Link routes, will revolutionise commuting between London and Kent. The first 842 Class 465 Networker coaches are expected to come into service in March 1992. About 400 are under construction by GEC-Alsthon and BREL. Network SouthEast has been given approval for an additional 188 coaches, although it does not have the funds to order them.

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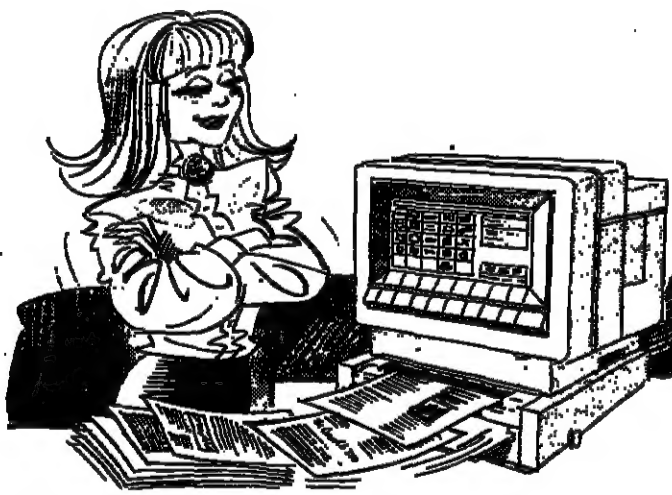
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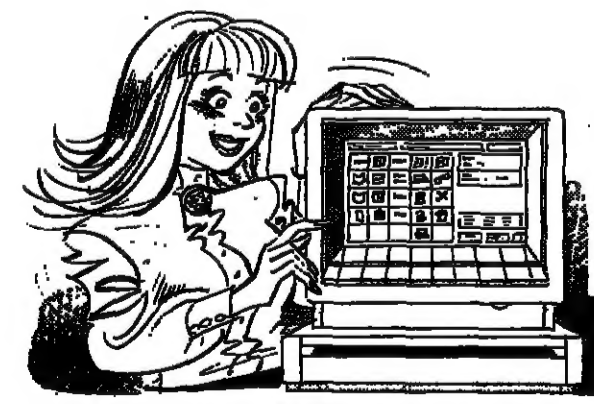
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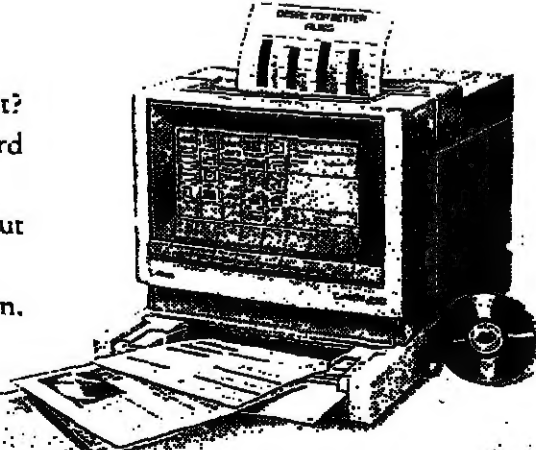
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THE TIMES MONDAY NOVEMBER 18 1991

Surcharges spawn a new breed of poll tax rebel

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

COUNCILS throughout Britain are facing a new poll tax rebellion as people refuse to pay surcharges added to community charge bills to compensate for non-payment.

According to council treasurers, the new breed of rebels are mostly middle-class Conservative supporters who see no reason why they should be penalised because others have refused to pay. For the first time this year, local tax bills show the true cost to those who are paying, of shortfalls caused by those who fail to pay or refuse to do so on principle.

Councils are obliged to set out on the poll tax bill, under the heading "other adjustments", the amount a person has to pay to make good losses caused by non-payment. The arrival of bills showing "other adjustments", sometimes of more than £150 a head, prompted a flood of letters and telephone calls to town halls.

Keith Jennings, a retired petro-chemical engineer, lives in the part of Dulwich that falls within the boundaries of Labour-controlled Lambeth in southwest London, where the "other adjustments" figure is £158. Mr Jennings, who described himself as a life-long Conservative voter and a natural Tory, said: "This addition is nearly 40 per cent of the total bill. I do not see why the devil should have to pay it."

He pays his poll tax in ten monthly instalments and, considering stopping, the standing order once he has paid the amount on his bill minus the £158 surcharge. Martin Pilgrim, finance officer of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, says treasurers of his city councils are worried that many people will follow Mr Jennings's example.

He said: "If significant numbers refuse to pay we will have to take them to court, which will be time-consuming and

and probably cost more than we will get back in the long run."

In the London borough of Southwark, where non-payment last year added £84 a head to this year's poll tax, the council says a significant proportion of its 177,000 chargepayers has threatened not to pay the surcharge.

Neighbouring Lewisham (surcharge £51 a head) has had calls from many people threatening not to pay. Two other London boroughs, Tower Hamlets and Greenwich, report chargepayers threatening not to pay surcharges of £63 and £75 respectively.

At £137, the surcharge in Islington is the second highest in England, but the council insists most people will pay. A spokesman said only 500 of the north London borough's 130,000 chargepayers had threatened not to pay.

At Hackney, east London, sent a letter justifying in detail its £83 surcharge to all those who wrote to complain and as a result expects to collect most of what it is owed, as do Camden and Hammersmith and Fulham.

Among the other authorities expecting trouble are Liverpool, where the additional charge will be £70, Kirkcaldy (£62), Salford (£61) and Manchester (£49). Ministers have decided that the bills for the new council tax will not show the costs of non-payment, when the tax is introduced in April 1993.

The contracting out of public services to private-sector firms is saving the taxpayer almost £250 million a year, according to a report published today by the Cleaning and Support Services Association, the contractors' trade association. It says that the government's plans to increase contracting out will save even more and raise standards of service to the public.

Fast-food couriers branded a hazard

By ADAM FRESCO

EATING a home-delivered pizza might not seem to involve one of life's more dangerous pursuits but Salford city council in Greater Manchester seems to think it does.

The council fears that because the price of a pizza delivered late to a customer is reduced, the pizza couriers might whizz along the streets in their vans or on their mopeds, becoming a road safety hazard. It is asking the Association of Metropolitan Authorities to press the Home Office to end the practice of giving money off food not delivered in time.

The fast food wars are bringing more and more enticements to a public hungry for offers. A Pizza Hut manager in London said, however, that his staff were not encouraged to drive fast. He said: "If the pizza is delivered after 30 minutes we give £1 off, if the food is not out of the store in 20 minutes we automatically give the reduction."

The courier does not pay for the food being late, the store does. Our policy is, be slow on the road and fast on our feet. We only deliver within a radius of a five-minute drive anyway, so if the food left the store after, say, 19 minutes the courier would have 11 minutes for a five-minute drive."

In America, where every type of fast food is available for those glued to the television, Domino's pizza chain was investigated because of a high casualty rate among its drivers. The idea of giving money off for late deliveries then made its way to Britain, and Salford council became anxious about pizza outlets operating the "money back" scheme.

The Home Office said yesterday: "Salford city council can ask for us to look into ending this practice but this is not a matter for us at all. You are talking about trade practices, which we do not cover."

Greater Manchester police said: "We would not know if pizza couriers are involved in a lot of accidents unless we were carrying out a specific survey on them."

Cooking up cure for goose invasion

By JOHN YOUNG

QUESTION: how do you prevent the eggs of a Canada goose from hatching? Answer: remove them from the nest and hard-boil them. That sounds like a pretty effective solution, but there is more to that. Having boiled the eggs, you put them back in the nest where the silly goose will continue to sit on them without noticing anything wrong.

Canada geese, which have been described as "the yobs of the bird world", also appear to be somewhat dim-witted. Research by the Game Conservancy indicates that they are unable either to tell when their eggs have been given the saucy treatment or to tell them apart from wooden substitutes.

The exercise has been carried out at the Agricultural Research Council's wildlife centre at Great Linford, Buckinghamshire, to try to cut the numbers of a species that has become a menace to public health and



Geese on the loose: Viv Phillips, a project officer at Great Linford, with the proliferating subjects of her research

enjoyment. Apart from damaging crops and other vegetation, the breed has a vigorous digestive system which, during intensive feeding, produces a large droppings every three or four minutes.

Despite their name, the birds are well established year-round residents, first imported in the 17th century. The population is growing at about 8 per cent a year and is

expected to be well over 100,000 by the year 2000.

Among their favourite habitats are parks and playing fields, notably in the Midlands and the Thames valley. They have invaded the Wildlife and Wetland Trust reserve at Slimbridge, in Gloucestershire, where they chase away smaller birds; disrupted the Henley Royal Regatta by getting in the way of the boats; en-

dangered aircraft by obstructing flight paths; and ruined many a lovingly tended lawn and golf green.

Since they are a protected species, their eggs can be removed from the nests only under licence from the agriculture ministry if it can be shown that the geese are damaging crops or creating a public nuisance.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds says it

has no objection to boiling the eggs or substituting wooden dummies. "We recognise that the geese can be a nuisance and, if a humane way can be found of controlling their numbers, we are happy to support it," an official said.

But why return the eggs to the nest at all? Because, if the birds return to empty nests, they will simply produce another clutch.

Blood test detects early signs of cancer

By THOMSON PRENTICE MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

A NEW blood test that can diagnose early signs of cancer has been developed by British researchers.

The technique can identify a single cancer cell in a blood sample in cases of malignant melanoma, a potentially fatal form of skin cancer. The advance is reported in *The Lancet* by specialists at St James's University Hospital, Leeds. "If its usefulness is confirmed, the test may have important implications in malignant melanoma, and perhaps in many other cancers," Peter Selby, professor of cancer studies at the hospital, and colleagues say.

The diagnosis of a primary cancer may be possible from blood samples, avoiding more invasive diagnostic methods. After diagnosis, the test could be useful in assessing a patient's prognosis.

The test uses the polymerase chain reaction technique of amplifying DNA from a blood sample to detect the gene involved in melanoma cancer cell production.

In this pretty bungalow in Ruislip, Helen and Peter entertained guests, collected antique books, trimmed the rosebushes and transmitted nuclear secrets to the KGB.



'STRANGE NEIGHBOURS': In 1961, Peter and Helen Kroger were arrested for their part in the 'Portland Spy Ring.' It left their neighbours and the whole country stunned and dismayed. 30 years on, the Krogers, now in Moscow, give their first ever television interview to 'Cutting Edge.' We reveal the Krogers' role in the notorious 'Atom Spy Ring,' and examine the devastating effect this spy-team had, not only on their neighbours from Ruislip, but also on Britain and the rest of the world. In this season of documentaries, we look at the many different ways people choose to lead their lives. It's fascinating viewing, made compulsive by the fact that these lives so often touch upon our own.

Every Monday at 9pm, we draw back the curtain.

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9PM. MONDAYS.

Father of jailed girl flies out

The father of Karyn Smith, above, one of two British girls jailed for drug trafficking in Thailand, has flown to Bangkok to supervise her application for a pardon.

Thai legal representatives of Miss Smith, aged 19, who was caught with more than 26 kilos of heroin with Patricia Cahill, aged 17, in July, have threatened to drop the case unless "certain assurances" are given by the father, Eric Smith. These are thought to include withdrawing allegations of police corruption.

Stephen Jakobi, the family's London lawyer, has claimed that an official of the Thai embassy in London had guaranteed a pardon. However, officials in Bangkok say they know of no assurances.

Young inventor

Adam Kyle, aged 19, of Wolverhampton, won the £10,000 top prize in the Year Young Inventor of the Year competition, organised by Rotary International, with a device for checking motorcycle ignitions.

Climber dies

A man who fell 20ft to his death during a climbing trip to the Yorkshire Dales on Saturday was named as David Stott, aged 51, of Dewsbury, West Yorkshire.

Mother killed

Dee Smithies, aged 37, was killed as she helped to save her three children from a house fire in Sowerby Bridge, West Yorkshire.

Bond winners

Winners in the weekly National Savings Premium Bonds prize draw are: £100,000, number 7LB 973931 (winner lives in Essex, value of holding £25); £50,000 25BX 229896 (North Yorkshire, £5,000); £25,000 6DP 678399 (West Yorkshire, £5,626).

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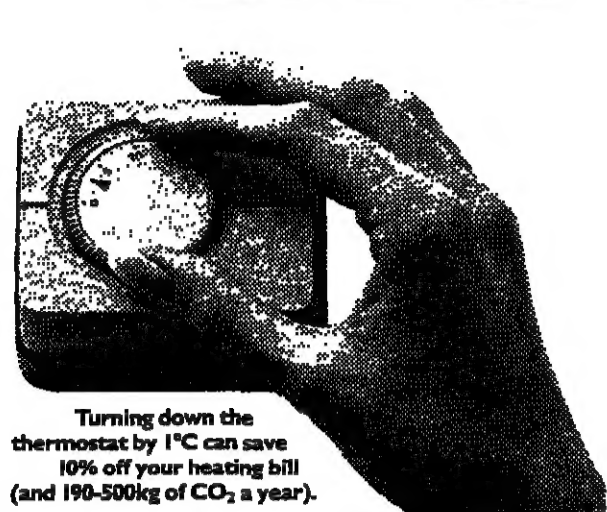
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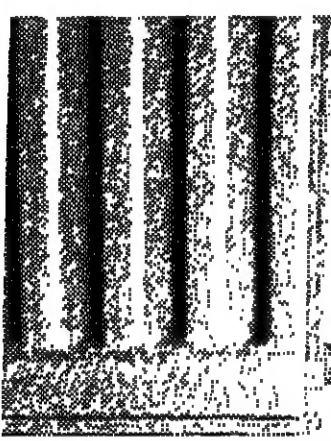
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What can any one person do about Global Warming?

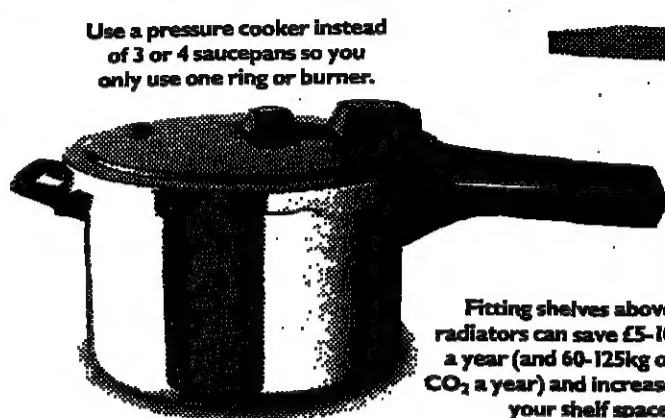


Turning down the thermostat by 1°C can save 10% off your heating bill (and 190-500kg of CO₂ a year).



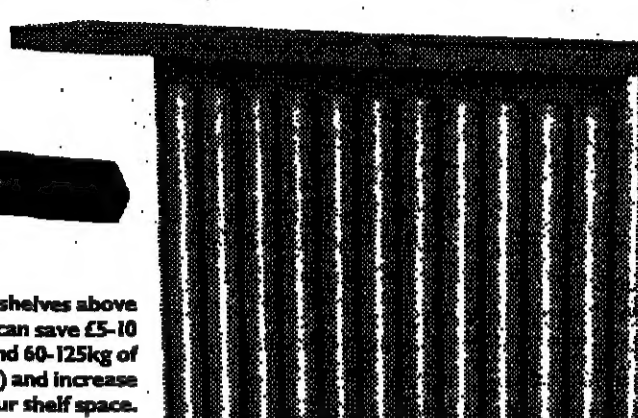
By fitting thermostatic radiator valves you can control the temperature in individual rooms.

If you are replacing your old freezer, a new energy efficient model can save you up to £40 a year in running costs compared with the average freezer currently in use. Look for the new Energy Efficiency Label on fridges and freezers in your local electricity company showroom.

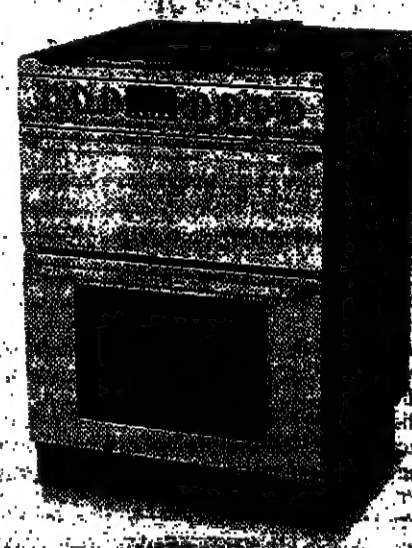


Use a pressure cooker instead of 3 or 4 saucepans so you only use one ring or burner.

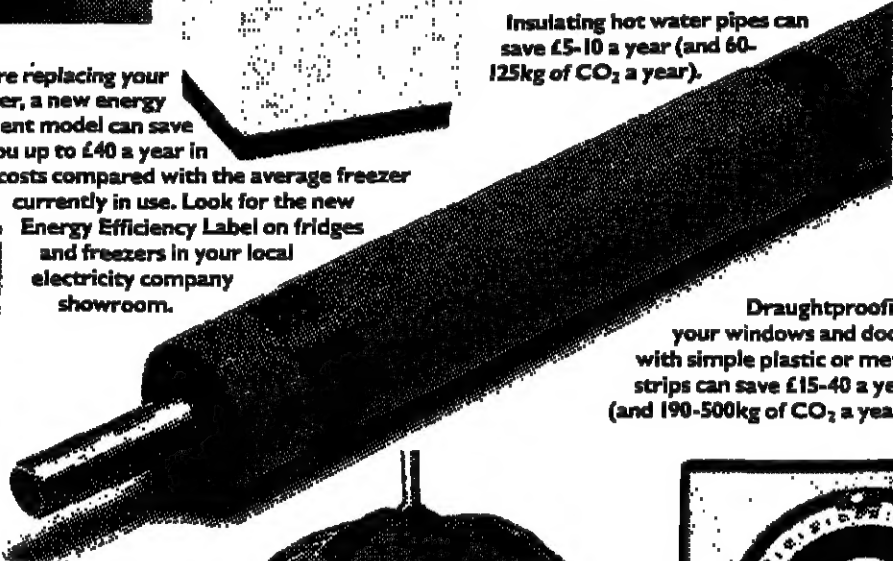
Fitting shelves above radiators can save £5-10 a year (and 60-125kg of CO₂ a year) and increase your shelf space.



A new energy efficient electric cooker can save you up to £35 a year in running costs compared with the average electric cooker currently in use.



Insulating hot water pipes can save £5-10 a year (and 60-125kg of CO₂ a year).



Draughtproofing your windows and doors with simple plastic or metal strips can save £15-40 a year (and 190-500kg of CO₂ a year).



Global Warming is caused by the warming effect of carbon dioxide and other gases in the atmosphere, trapping the sun's heat. It's popularly known as the 'Greenhouse Effect'.

Carbon dioxide, the major greenhouse gas, is created whenever we use energy generated from fossil fuels, whether in our homes, offices, factories or for transport.

More than a quarter of Britain's CO₂, however, is produced by the energy we use in our homes and it is in our homes that each of us can make our greatest contribution to becoming more energy efficient.

By making relatively straightforward changes in the way we use energy at home, it's estimated that we could cut our fuel bills – and thus also the amount of carbon dioxide generated – by 20% or more.

The ideas shown here are only a sample of the many things each of us can do every day to use energy more efficiently – and thus play our part in the fight against Global Warming.

For more details about how to make your home more energy efficient, please telephone 0345 247 347, for only the cost of a local call, or complete the coupon and send it to: Helping the Earth Begins at Home, P.O. Box 200, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire CV37 9ZZ.

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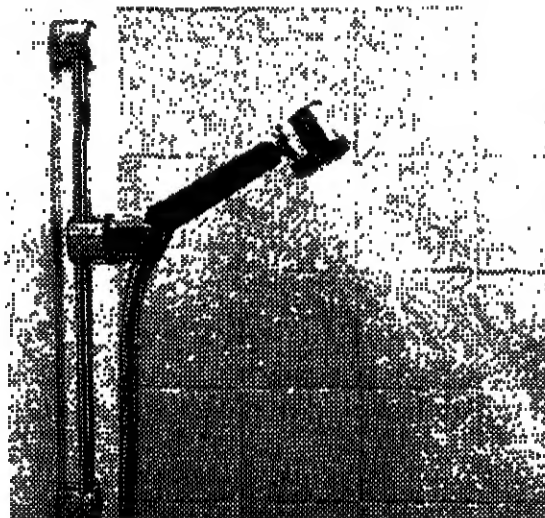
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Tick here if you would not like your name to be included on our mailing list for further information about home energy efficiency.



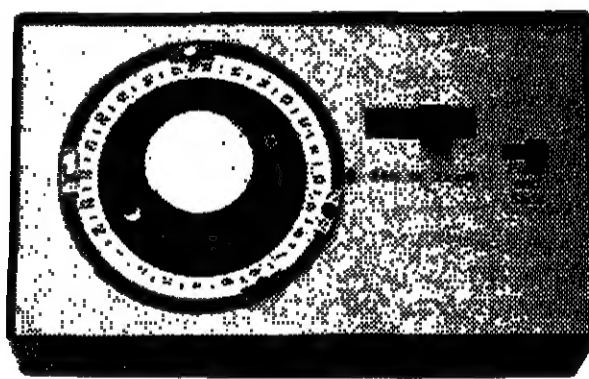
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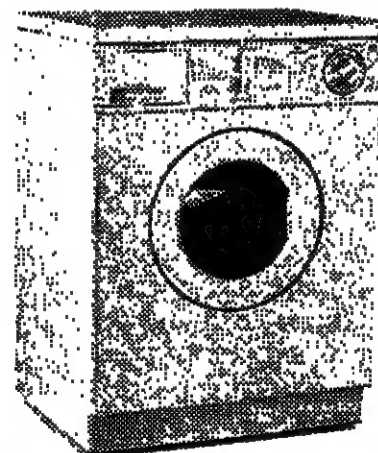
Taking a shower instead of a bath uses only 1/4 of the hot water (and can save 60-125kg of CO₂ a year).



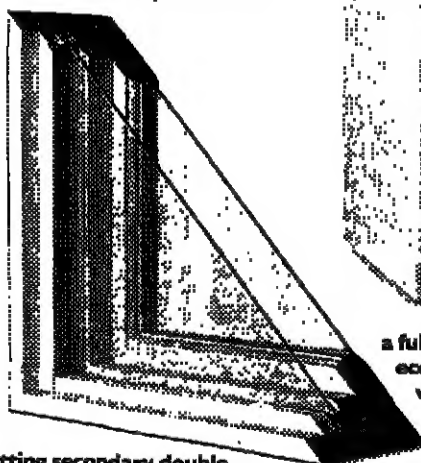
Insulating your hot water tank with a purpose-made jacket can save £10-15 a year (and 125-190kg of CO₂ a year).



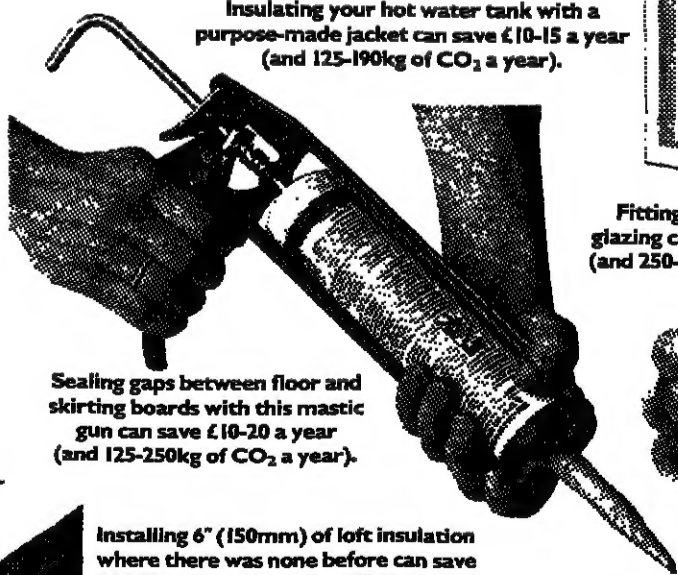
Adding a timer or programmer to your central heating system can save £20-25 a year by only providing heat when you need it.



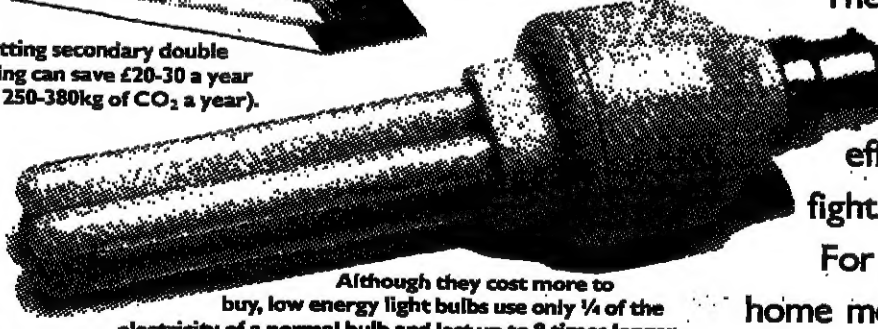
Wait until you have a full load if possible or use the economy programme if your washing machine has one.



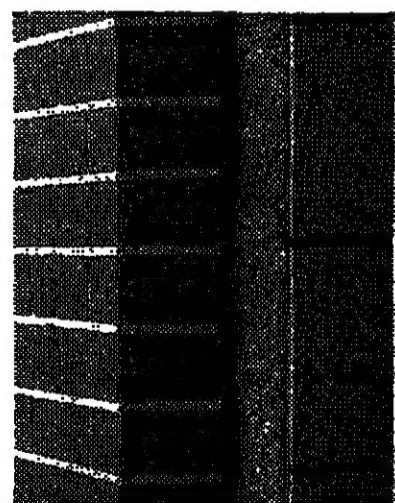
Fitting secondary double glazing can save £20-30 a year (and 250-380kg of CO₂ a year).



Sealing gaps between floor and skirting boards with this mastic gun can save £10-20 a year (and 125-250kg of CO₂ a year).



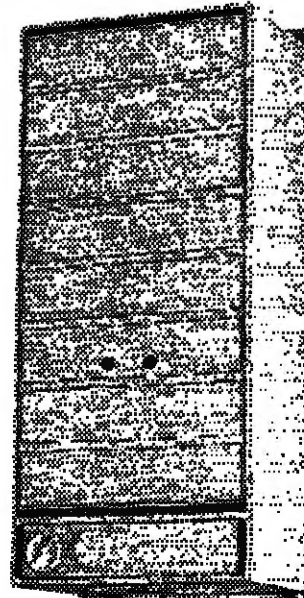
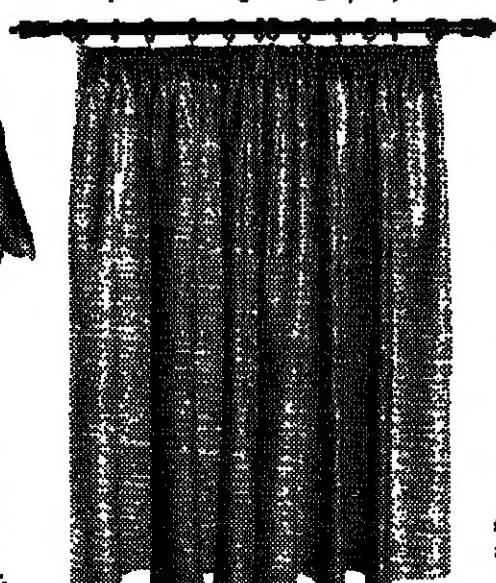
Although they cost more to buy, low energy light bulbs use only 1/4 of the electricity of a normal bulb and last up to 8 times longer.



Insulating cavity walls can save £60-80 a year (and 750-1000kg of CO₂ a year). The cost to you will be about £300 to £450.

Installing 6" (150mm) of loft insulation where there was none before can save £60-70 a year. If you have 2" (50mm) or less, top it up to 6" depth.

Closing your curtains when it's getting dark can save you £10-15 a year (and 125-190kg of CO₂ a year).



Replacing an old gas central heating boiler with a new condensing boiler costs extra to start with, but can save £100-150 a year (and 1250-1900kg of CO₂ a year). This is one of the biggest single savings you can make.



A dripping hot water tap can waste a bathful of water a day – ensuring taps are turned off properly, and fixing dripping taps, can save up to £5 a year.

Fear and laughter as Cambodians open door to their former oppressors

Wary Phnom Penh greets Khmer chief

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PHNOM PENH

THE Khmer Rouge returned to the Cambodian capital yesterday for the first time since Vietnamese troops ended their murderous rule in 1979. Son Sen, who played a brutal internal security role during the Khmer Rouge government, flew in from Bangkok to take part in a meeting of the Supreme National Council, set up as part of the country's moves towards peace.

Dressed in Chinese-style grey suits with shirts and ties, instead of the black uniforms of old or the khaki that the Khmer Rouge normally wear now, Son Sen and his 10 bodyguards and aides could have been businessmen. "I am very happy to be back," said Son Sen, who is to be defence minister in the council and is one of only two Khmer Rouge men appointed to the body. "I will co-operate with the SNC."

As head of security in Khmer Rouge-ruled Cambodia, Son Sen may have been



personally responsible for the deaths of tens of thousands of people. He was in overall charge of the notorious Tuol Sleng interrogation centre in Phnom Penh, now a "genocide museum", where 20,000 died.

The national council, under the chairmanship of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, who returned home last Thursday from 13 years of exile, will represent Cambodian sovereignty as American forces oversee the dismantling of much of the four previously

waiting factions' armies, and until United Nations-supervised elections in 1993. Incredibly to outsiders, the Khmer Rouge hope to do reasonably well in these elections. Some diplomats believe they could win between 10 and 12 per cent of the vote, mainly from poor rural people in or near areas they control. This would give them some seats in a future national assembly, and thus a voice in the capital they emptied in a mass evacuation in 1975.

The apparent revival of Khmer Rouge fortunes, boosted by wealth gained from control of the gem-mining Pailin area and from past Chinese aid, stems largely from the corruption and flaunting of wealth by the ruling elite here, and the Phnom Penh regime's neglect of rural areas. "The conditions that spawned the Khmer Rouge in the first place are here again," said a senior foreign relief official in Phnom Penh. "It seems the elite in Cambodia never learn."

The Khmer Rouge group were met by a deputy foreign minister and other officials. Guarded by the soldiers they had been fighting until recently, they drove to a high-walled state guest house. Leaders of the Vietnam-installed government, most of whom are former Khmer Rouge and who are hated as renegades by their former comrades, have said they feared demonstrations. Some protesters appeared briefly, but Mak Ben, a middle-level Khmer Rouge official, said: "I am not concerned about my safety because this is national reconciliation."

The strongest desire of local people seemed to be to take a good look at their former persecutors. "I want to see their faces," said a young woman whose parents both died during Khmer Rouge rule.

"I just wanted to see what the killers look like," said Keo Vuthy, aged 36, an office clerk. He watched a Khmer Rouge security guard called Vanna change Thai currency into Cambodian notes and recalled what he had seen in Phnom Penh in early 1979, shortly after the Khmer Rouge had been driven out — the central bank blown up, and currency notes blowing in the street. The Khmer Rouge had declared that money was no longer to be used.

Like most Khmer Rouge, Vanna was polite and quiet spoken. But one had no doubt that, if ordered, he would have killed in a second. In the past, they killed for what George Orwell in 1984 called "thought crimes" — wrong political thinking.

At Tuol Sleng, there is a letter written by a man using a nomme de guerre, believed to be Son Sen, to his chief torture-master, "Brother Deuch". In it, Son Sen asks that Deuch tape-record confessions so that people could be disposed of more quickly. Among the 87 foreigners who died here was a British yachtsman who had had to confess that his father, a schoolmaster, had spied for both the KGB and CIA.



Return of the warlord: Son Sen, thought to have ordered thousands of deaths in the "killing fields" of Cambodia, arriving at Phnom Penh airport yesterday flanked by aides

Sihanouk stars in comedy of errors

By JAMES PRINGLE

IT IS somehow a cross between Shakespearean drama, opera bouffe and *The King and I*.

The setting is sumptuous — the newly renovated royal palace in Phnom Penh — and the cast of characters bizarre, to say the least. There is Prince Norodom Sihanouk, who at the age of 69 has come back to die in Cambodia, though he hopes to have some fun before he goes. Then there is his son, Prince Ranariddh, whom Prince Sihanouk would like to see on the throne as would, apparently, many Cambodians.

Father and son have been having noisy arguments in the past few days — even shouting matches, according to palace insiders. — is the old Khmer palace. The father has had to reach a compromise with the rulers of Cambodia in order to return. On Saturday, he walked hand in hand with Chea Sim, the Cambodian strongman, down to a pavilion by the river here.

A few months ago, Chea Sim, a former Khmer Rouge who jumped ship after the Vietnamese invaded Cambodia in late 1978, was his bitter foe. Hun Sen, the prime minister of the Phnom Penh regime, is now Prince Sihanouk's "second son". He is 40 years old.

Hun Sen, also a former Khmer Rouge, has written four songs which he says were inspired by Prince Sihanouk. The prince told a press conference inside the royal palace on Saturday night that Prince Ranariddh, who at 48 is a carbon copy of his father — they both speak in high-pitched voices and wave their arms when excited — would form a coalition with Chea Sim's ruling People's Party after United Nations-supervised elections in 1993.

This seemed to be news to Prince Ranariddh, a lecturer

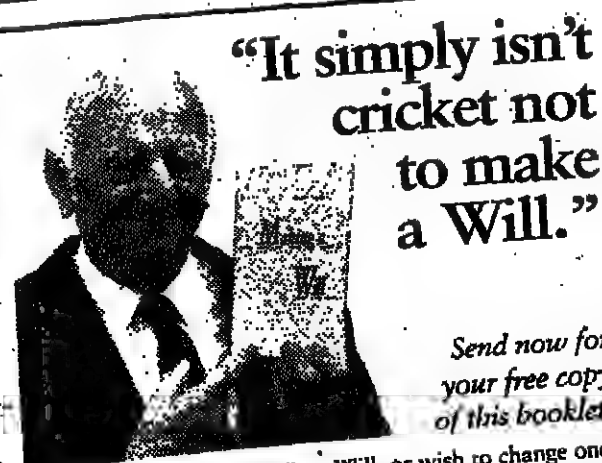


Sihanouk: managing to bring back some smiles

Sihanouk's North Korean security men and palace flunkies, four Chinese chefs, including a Chinese MP, two pastry chefs, and one who prepares French food and a Chilean aide-de-camp.

For the first time in years the prince had people laughing at a political rally, a rent-a-crowd in front of the palace at the weekend. He said that when he complained to the Khmer Rouge, whose prisoner he was in 1975, that he had not enough to eat they had said: "But Prince, you look more handsome than I."

There isn't much to laugh about in Cambodia, but Prince Sihanouk has managed to put a smile on some faces.



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UN backs arms deal register

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE United Nations has given overwhelming backing to the British proposal to create an international register of conventional arms sales, designed to prevent any country building an offensive military capability like Iraq's.

A key UN committee, comprising all 166 UN members, voted 106-1 on Friday, with only Cuba against, to establish the arms register next year. But China, one of the world's largest arms exporters, broke ranks with the other great powers with whom it has already agreed to limit arms sales, and abstained.

North Korea, Iraq, Oman, Myanmar (Burma), Pakistan, Singapore and Sudan also abstained — a group including what one Western diplomat described as "some of the world's nastier people". "The Chinese will be rather embarrassed to have got the wrong side of the equation," the diplomat said.

Fifty-one countries did not take part in the vote. The General Assembly is due to give its final approval next month, but that is now regarded as a formality.

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Trip by UN negotiator raises hopes for Waite

From MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

THE return to the Middle East at the weekend of Giandomenico Picco, a senior United Nations negotiator, has added weight to an Iranian report that Terry Waite, Britain's last hostage in Lebanon, may soon be freed after nearly five years in captivity.

The *Tehran Times* said yesterday that one of the four Americans still held would also be freed, but that the kidnappers would probably give priority to Mr Waite, the Church of England envoy. Signor Picco had made similar trips to the Middle East before the release of the British pilot, Jack Mann, on September 24, and Jesse Turner, the American hostage freed on October 21.

Signor Picco paved the way for their release after direct talks with their pro-Iranian kidnappers as well as with Syrian, Iranian and Israeli officials. The kidnappers had also asked him to be present at the handover of their captives.

The newspaper did not say why the kidnappers were prepared to free Mr Waite. He was expected to be one of the

John McCarthy in August and Mr Mann in September.

Most of all, the appearance of the report suggests that the complex hostage release process has not been derailed by the escalating violence in southern Lebanon between Israeli forces and Hezbollah, the pro-Iranian organisation that fronts the kidnap groups. But by freeing Mr Waite, aged 52, his captors, Islamic Jihad, would be giving up any leverage that they feel they might have on the British government. His publicity-seeking kidnappers would also lose a wider audience by narrowing interest in the plight of the remaining hostages almost exclusively to America, four of whose citizens remain captives. The others are Mr Waite and two Germans.

Although the UN has confirmed that Signor Picco is in the Middle East, it is keeping details of his trip secret. The Iranian report said that he visited Damascus at the weekend. A Western diplomat in Beirut said that there were reports that Signor Picco had arrived last week in Lebanon where he had met Muhammad Khonsari, a senior Iranian foreign ministry official. Mr Khonsari said publicly that he hoped the seven remaining Westerners would be freed very soon.

Signor Picco, who has won the trust of the various parties, will need to muster all his skills to persuade the kidnappers it is in their interests to continue with the release process and to keep the hostage issue separate from their conflict with Israel in southern Lebanon. Some diplomats commented that his task was helped last week when Washington blamed Libya squarely for the 1988 terrorist bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, exonerating both Syria and Iran.

● **Giant wish:** diplomats, pop stars and relatives of Mr Waite in London released white doves and signed a giant Christmas card to the Western captives in Lebanon yesterday, encouraged by reports that two of them may soon be freed. The huge card, with the message "Don't Keep Them Forever", was addressed to the remaining Westerners held in Lebanon. The event was planned before the news of a possible breakthrough in the hostage issue. (Reuters)

"Let's hope it is true," a British diplomat in Beirut said of the newspaper report. "We have no indication that this is the case, but the *Tehran Times* has been accurate in the past." The newspaper correctly predicted the release of several hostages, including that of



Waite: captors may give priority to his release

last hostages to be freed along with Terry Anderson, the American journalist. The kidnappers were said to view both as trump cards to be played only when Israel agreed to free its most valuable Lebanese prisoner, Sheikh Abdel Karim Obeid, the Hezbollah cleric.

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The pledge, issued by Nikolai Fedorov, Russian justice minister, appeared to be a judiciously timed goodwill gesture ahead of Mr Yeltsin's visit to Bonn on Thursday. However its political effects have been dampened by German scepticism.

Mr Gorbachev confirmed his opposition to the expulsion of Herr Honecker, who was taken to Russia in March and is now wanted by the Germans for issuing "shoot-to-kill" orders, in an interview this week by the German magazine *Stern*. He described the former party boss as "old man ... who languished for more than 10 years in jail under the Nazis" and suggested that Bonn should show the same spirit of forgiveness as the Russians had displayed over the wartime behaviour of the German army.

Yeltsin decrees, page 1
Leading article, page 17

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Song of peace: Hanan Ashrawi, centre, the Palestinian activist, joining hands with Israeli women campaigning for peace and who support her defiance of harassment by Israeli authorities

Israel retreats on Ashrawi threat

From RICHARD BRESTON IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL yesterday appeared to back away from its threat to prosecute Hanan Ashrawi, the Palestinian spokeswoman accused by Israeli police of illegally meeting the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Although the matter was raised at yesterday's weekly cabinet meeting, political sources said that no action was likely to be taken, in spite of police findings that Mrs Ashrawi had broken the law. In a reversal of policy, possibly prompted by the international and domestic outcry at the weekend, Ehud Olmert, the Israeli health minister, said on Saturday that he did not believe that the Palestinian would ever be tried.

"Legal action proposed by the police against Mrs Ashrawi regarding her alleged contacts would not prove effective," said Mr Olmert, a key adviser to Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister. "It would also be wrong, unrealistic and untimely. She will not be prosecuted. In the end we will be better off not raising the issue."

The visible embarrassment in government circles was particularly acute after President Bush reportedly said in a meeting with George Salem, the Arab-American leader, "Please know that Hanan is in my mind and I am paying very close attention to what is happening over there." The issue is likely to come up again on Friday when Mr Bush will meet the Israeli leader in

Washington. The focus of their talks will be on where and when to hold bilateral negotiations between Israel and its neighbours and to finalise details of the opening round of the multinational talks.

Mr Bush's concern was echoed yesterday by left-wing Israeli women leaders, including Shulamit Aloni, a Citizens' Rights Movement member of the Knesset, who visited Mrs Ashrawi at her home in the West Bank city of Ramallah to offer her support. However, Gush Emunim, the Jewish settlers' movement, reacted with anger at any suggestion that Mrs Ashrawi's case be dropped. "We demand that the government not be deterred from justice by the whimpers of the viper Hanan Ashrawi," the group said. "There is need to apply the principle of the rule of law to the terrorist leaders as well."

● **Amman:** Jordan was thrown into political confusion yesterday by the resignation of Taher al-Masri, its moderate Palestinian prime minister, prompted mainly by fierce Muslim fundamentalist opposition to the Middle East peace process (Christopher Walker writes).

King Hussein is determined to stand up to the fundamentalists, who form the largest single block in parliament. He has called on Sherif Zeid Bin Shaker, his former commander-in-chief, to form a new cabinet.

Gulf allies are accused of killing civilians needlessly

By MICHAEL BRYNOR, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

HUNDREDS of civilians needlessly lost their lives during the Gulf war because allied commanders failed to abide by the laws of armed conflict, according to a human rights report published yesterday.

An investigation by Middle East Watch, an American-based organisation, disputed claims by the United States and its allies that they had taken all feasible precautions to avoid civilian deaths. It said that in the selection of

bombing targets and the choice of means and methods of attack, the allies broke protocol 1 of the 1949 Geneva Convention, which the United States has declared to be legally binding.

The allies are accused of bombing military targets in civilian areas by day, instead of by night when civilian casualties could have been minimised. They did not make full use of precision-guided "smart" bombs in

urban areas, and in more than 90 per cent of cases dropped on urban areas bombs that hit their target only 25 per cent of the time.

The report, based on interviews with Iraqi residents of various nationalities, also blamed the allies for targeting food, agricultural and water-treatment facilities, crippling the electricity system, attacking civilian vehicles and firing on bedouin tents, leaving 46 civilians dead. Four government food warehouses in Diwaniya, a new dairy factory north of Basra, flour and grain storage warehouses as well as water-treatment facilities should not have been hit because they were making no known contribution to the Iraqi war effort, the report said. It also claimed that under the laws of war America should have issued a warning before attacking the Amiriyah air raid shelter, where up to 300 civilians died.

● **Needless Deaths in the Gulf War:** a 400-page report issued under the aegis of Human Rights Watch, said the Iraqis had also committed violations, including missile attacks on civilians in Saudi Arabia and Israel and taking illegal reprisals.

The Foreign Office gave the report a dusty response, saying: "The allies took very great care to ensure that they attacked only genuine military targets. They went to great lengths to avoid civilian, cultural and religious targets."

Doctors protest in Paris

Paris — The latest mass demonstration against Edith Cresson's socialist government saw tens of thousands of doctors and chemists, nurses and laboratory technicians take to the streets of Paris to protest against pay and conditions and the lack of investment in public health (Philip Jacobson writes).

According to the organisers, 500,000 marched peacefully yesterday from Montparnasse to attend a final rally in the Champ de Mars. The police estimated the crowd at no more than 60,000, but agreed that proceedings had been orderly and calm.

The present wave of strikes go-along and demonstrations shows no sign of slackening off, while public opinion remains firmly behind most of the public sector workers.

Seat for Rao

Delhi — P.V. Narasimha Rao, the Indian prime minister, has been elected to parliament five months after taking office. The governing Congress (I) party was leading in six other parliamentary constituencies during counting after 15 by-elections at the weekend. Several people were killed in post-release clashes.

Lebanon push

Beirut — A 35-man Israeli armoured force pushed north of its self-declared security zone in southern Lebanon to a position overlooking Hezbollah bases. Lebanese police said Israeli helicopters flew reconnaissance missions over the area, but it was not known whether the force had attacked or arrested any guerrillas. (AP)

Kurds flee city

Arbil, Iraq — Thousands of Kurds have fled this northern Iraqi city fearing that orders to evacuate villages to the south-west are the prelude to an attack by government troops. Kurdish leaders, anxious to prevent an exodus, have prepared a televised message asking Kurds not to leave home. (Reuters)

Franco recalled

Madrid — Thousands of Spanish and foreign admirers of General Franco commemorated the 16th anniversary of the dictator's death with speeches at a peaceful open-air ceremony here and marked the 55th anniversary of the death of the founder of the Falange party, José Antonio Primo de Rivera.

Dressing to order

Khartoum — President al-Bashir has ordered women in the civil service, schools and universities to wear Muslim dress. Assuming the added role of minister of culture and information, he pledged to "purify the mass media" and said governors of northern states had been ordered to ban mixed dancing. (Reuters)

Brando delay

Orléans — A French magistrate has delayed the return of Cheyenne Brando, daughter of Marlon Brando, to Tahiti while a psychiatric report is studied. Miss Brando, arrested after a judge in Tahiti reopened an investigation into the killing of her lover last year, had been booked to fly out yesterday. (Reuters)

Pope canonised

Rome — The Pope has canonised Raphael Kalinowski, one of Poland's most revered figures. Kalinowski, who was born in Vilnius, was heralded in a service at St Peter's Church as a "saint of reconciliation". (Reuters)

Moi accused of plotting

Jackson project

Fog of misinformation darkens Yugoslav conflict

Warring foes add deceit to armoury

From ANNE McELVOY IN ZAGREB

ONE could not get anyone in Zagreb to say so in so many words, but the town of Vukovar fell yesterday. Or at least there was "no longer any military way to save the town", as the information ministry spokesman hesitantly admitted, from which it was safe to assume that federal troops were marauding through the centre and it was all over.

The words "fall" and "defeat" were avoided throughout the day. Clarity was an early victim of the war in Yugoslavia and reality has become progressively enveloped in a blanket of fog.

Croatian Radio, the main purveyor of information on the Croat side, uses a vocabulary that underestimates the scale of events and it takes one a few weeks to discern the painful truth. If a town or village is reported as being in "strategic difficulties" it is safe to assume that the Croatian national guard has suffered heavy losses there. When, as yesterday, they admitted that the position was critical, it meant that the fight was over. Never, ever, does it announce that a town has fallen; such a fate is referred to as

being "no longer in Croatian hands" as if the stronghold had been briefly mislaid. When Kostajnica, the pre-Vukovar symbol of resistance, fell in September, its defeat was not divulged at all. The radio announcer simply opened the day's news with the words: "The counter-offensive for Kostajnica will begin in the next days."

The efforts to regain territory once seized are conspicuous by their paucity of coverage. Litanies mingle with hyperbole. The Croats, who are too sensitive to use the word "fall", routinely (and

falsely) announce that the army has dropped napalm. Both sides report that mass killings have occurred with huge exaggerations of the numbers involved. As the desperate attempts to win the hearts and minds of Europe grow, the claims become wilder, the proof skimpier. There is still a reluctance to recognise that the reason that the West hesitates from coming to the aid of Croatia is due to strategic considerations and the fear of setting a precedent. But the Croatian media is convinced that officials in London and Washington can be outraged into submission, so the assault continues unabated.

The example is stark in the case of Dubrovnik which was reported to have been extensively destroyed, while Western correspondents inside the city say the damage is still minimal. It was after all built as an Adriatic fortress and is living up to its historic role. On the Serbian side, the semi-official Tanjug news agency is also no stranger to wishful thinking, and spews out endless reports about irrelevant meetings held by federal groups as if to prove that Yugoslavia is still intact and functioning as a unit. The Serbian press has also become the army's mouthpiece: it declared seven times that Vukovar was about to fall before it did.

Much of the Tanjug output is aimed at demoralising Croatia, so the tendency to report defeats is equal to the Croatian practice of never reporting them at all. When last Monday Vukovar was still locked in resistance, Tanjug conveniently forgot it had already reported its fall and announced that new forces were being sent in.

● **Bridisist:** President Cossiga of Italy yesterday called on "all those who hold power in Belgrade" to end "terrorist operations" against the people of the Dalmatian coast. He compared the attacks to those of the Nazis against the people of Warsaw and Amsterdam. (AFP)



From TIM JUDAH IN DUBROVNIK

Ministers call for UN force

AN APPEAL for the demilitarisation of Dubrovnik has been launched by two French and Italian cabinet ministers, who were trapped by heavy seas in the Adriatic port last night. One politician, Margherita Boniver, Italy's immigration minister, called the Yugoslav military's siege of the city "absolutely criminal".

The demilitarisation plan, which was the idea of Bernard Kouchner, the French humanitarian policy minister, was to have been discussed with the Yugoslav military yesterday. M Kouchner, who described the situation in Croatia as "a scandalous war from the Middle Ages", said that the plan envisaged the withdrawal of all armed men from the area and their replacement with unarmed United Nations forces. The plan has received the backing of Dubrovnik's city fathers.

However, the boat carrying the ministers to talks with Yugoslav army representatives was forced to return to port because of poor weather. This meant that they were

unable to ask the military authorities why Radio Tito had broadcast on Saturday night a call-up for thousands of Montenegrin reservists. The broadcast, which came four hours after a general ceasefire was supposed to have come into effect across Croatia, said: "From the beginning your companions have been on the front line and they expect you to join them in the struggle against fascism. All who avoid this call will be punished for shirking their military duties." Most soldiers laying siege to Dubrovnik are Montenegrin reservists.

Dubrovnik has been besieged for more than six weeks

Shooting sullies a gilded life

From PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

THE claimant to the throne of Italy, Prince Victor-Emmanuel of Savoy, will learn in Paris today whether his gilded life in exile is to be rudely interrupted by a few years behind bars.

After a trial that packed the courtroom in the Palais de Justice last week, the 54-year-old prince — who boasts another 177 noble titles — will hear the verdict on whether he is guilty of manslaughter in a case arising from a bizarre shooting incident well over a decade ago.

According to the prosecution, Victor-Emmanuel, a tall, greying man with a taste for beautifully cut dark suits, fired the shot that struck a 19-year-old German in the groin as he lay sleeping on a yacht moored off Corsica in August 1978. Dirk Hamer died several months later when gangrene developed after an operation to amputate a leg. The prince has already served 50 days in a Corsican jail for unlawful wounding.

The present trial has sought, with less than total success, to establish the precise sequence of events that led to Mr Hamer's death, while his family is pursuing a linked civil action for damages against the prince.



Victor-Emmanuel: served 50 days

bunch of Italian youngsters. Among the cast gathered in the assize court was Dirk Hamer's older sister, Birgit, a former Miss Germany who has pursued the prince loudly and relentlessly since the tragedy. Confronting her was the equally striking Marina Doria of Savoy, once a water skiing champion, who freely testified to having despatched 500,000 francs (about £50,000) to the Hamer family shortly after the accident.

An act of simple humanity, she insisted, to help with the victim's medical fees: when a lawyer suggested that amounted to an admission of the prince's guilt, she declared: "If I had intended to make amends for a wrongful act, I would have sent them a lot more."

Seated in the dock, Victor-Emmanuel sat impassively through some unimpressive psychiatric assessments of his "immature" and "hyper-sensitive" character.

Fall of Vukovar, page 1
Diary, page 16

Defeated Duke vows to keep race on US agenda

From PETER STOTHARD IN NEW ORLEANS

DAVID Duke lost his battle for the Louisiana governorship early yesterday morning but immediately vowed to keep on fighting for what he said was "the right cause and the one that will prevail".

By an expected large margin, Louisiana voters rejected the former Ku Klux Klansman's bid to reduce welfare spending, cut taxes on big business, and roll back "affirmative action" programmes for black workers. In an election which became one of the most closely watched gubernatorial contests of modern times, Edwin Edwards, the Democrat and former governor, won 61 per cent of the vote in a comeback after four years' disgrace following corruption charges. Yesterday he called his victory a triumph for "decency and fairness" and began a new campaign to undo the harm to Louisiana's image that the months of media concentration on Mr Duke had created, he said. Pollsters explained the unexpected size of Mr Edwards' victory as a response by voters to a barrage of television advertisements emphasising the economic damage to Louisiana that a Duke victory would cause. In extended political com-



Edwards celebrating his victory in New Orleans

cial, one lasting 30 minutes, Louisiana voters were told that thousands of jobs would leave the state if they elected so controversial a governor. "Black turnout was 80 per cent, higher than that of white voters for the first time and the highest overall level in Louisiana's history. We were terrified of what a Duke governorship would mean," said Jessie Brown, aged 18, from New Orleans. Black leaders had called the election "a wake-up" for their community, lecturing young voters in particular on how it was now their responsibility to

protect the civil rights heritage of Martin Luther King. Mr Duke yesterday criticised the heavily financed coalition of forces which defeated him, yet saying that his message would gain "hundreds of new messengers" as a result. That is now a serious worry for President Bush, whose pleasure at Mr Duke's defeat will be offset by the likelihood he will now have to face rising discontent on the Republican right and primary challenges next year from Mr Duke and Pat Buchanan, a conservative columnist.

National Democrats now see a new "Dukism" weapon with which to beat Republicans if they try to attract the support of voters opposed to affirmative action, while the White House hopes that by skilful campaigning next year Mr Bush can present himself as against Mr Duke and racial voters. But this is treacherous ground politically. Until the poll results were declared, there was a tense atmosphere throughout Louisiana. In one black precinct close to the French quarter in New Orleans, police arrested a black judge for talking to newspaper reporters too close to a polling booth.

One American journalist



Losing platform: Duke, flanked by daughters Kristin, left, and Erika, prepares to concede defeat in Baton Rouge, Louisiana

who had a Duke souvenir attached to his notebook was told to "get his white-boy arse back to Los Angeles while he still could". Around Mr Duke's closely guarded house in a New Orleans suburb, reporters described how they had to remove stickers from

their cars before they dared park them anywhere in the state capital. A vanload of \$5,000 (£2,800) Calaboula hunting dogs with Duke stickers attached to their coats added to the uneasy atmosphere.

Mr Duke was seen as a local superstar even by those who voted against him. One 30-year-old elector said that he could not support Mr Duke because of the economic damage that a victory for the maverick Republican would bring to Louisiana. But he held up his daughter, aged

seven, for the candidate to kiss as he left the voting booth. A snapshot with Mr Duke in 1991 will be something for many a Louisianan photograph album in years to come.

Big chance, page 16

Army tied to Jesuit murders

From REUTER IN NEW YORK

AN AMERICAN congressional panel says senior Salvadoran army officials plotted the 1989 killings of six Jesuit priests in El Salvador, *The New York Times* reported yesterday.

The investigators concluded that General René Emilio Ponce, now defence minister and then army chief of staff, and other officers planned the attack at a meeting the day before at the Salvadoran military academy. The killing of the priests, their housekeeper and her daughter caused an international outcry. *The New York Times* said the defence minister denied that he had anything to do with the plot and said he was not at the academy that day.

An enquiry by House of Representatives Democrats cited strong circumstantial evidence for their conclusion. The House special task force on El Salvador, previously accused army personnel of trying to cover up the involvement of senior officers.

An American investigator said General Ponce's role in the meeting was "passive", the newspaper said.

Moi accuses US of plotting rally

From SAM KILEY IN NAIROBI

KENYA and America were yesterday heading for a diplomatic confrontation after President Moi's government accused staff at the American embassy here of helping opposition politicians to organise a pro-democracy rally in the capital at the weekend. The protest, declared illegal, was put down with ruthless efficiency by paramilitary police.

One man was reported to have been trampled to death as crowds fled before tear gas at the protesters gathering at the Kanukuni grounds, where the Saturday rally was to be held. Many others were injured in clashes with police. Kenya's pro-democracy opposition movement is now in disarray as seven key leaders of the banned Forum for the Return of Democracy have been arrested. On the eve of the rally Oginga Odinga, the first vice-president of Kenya, was arrested. On Saturday Paul Muthia, the chairman of the Kenya Law Society, and Mulinde Muliro, a former cabinet minister, were among six others detained.

Soon after their arrests on Saturday, President Moi's office issued a statement accusing America of orchestrating the incidents. It said that American, German and Swedish diplomats were with the politicians when they were arrested although independent observers saw no diplomats at the scene. "The [Kenyan] government has expressed great concern and utter dismay at the open involvement of the US diplomats who have

agastarmed and abetted the supposed opposition movement in Kenya," the statement read. "It is clear that the six arrested [on Saturday] have been operating under the cover of some foreign missions based in Nairobi."

Coming before a Paris Club meeting of the world's most powerful economic nations this month, President Moi's charge will only aggravate the worsening relations between Nairobi and Washington. Smith Hempstone, the American ambassador to Kenya, said yesterday that although the Paris Club is primarily an economic meeting, he would be "astounded" if Kenya were to receive a boost in foreign aid after the events of the weekend. "We are not going to be in a hurry to do them any favours," he said. "It is outrageous."

Diplomats in Nairobi said that President Moi's outburst could lead to more countries following Denmark's example and cutting off aid to Kenya at a time when help is sorely needed as the economy dwindles. "They managed to put down the rally without too much bloodshed and then Moi goes crazy and starts trying to pick a fight with the West," one European diplomat said yesterday.

About 25 foreign journalists, including this writer, were also arrested at the Kanukuni grounds on Saturday but then released. The bureau chief of United Press International news agency was, however, badly beaten by the police.

Jackson's wildcat project rebounds

From WILLIAM CASH IN LOS ANGELES

With his spindly body, boyish voice and love for animals, you would have thought that Michael Jackson, the pop megastar, was a harmless sort of fellow. But the violent and bizarre sexual content of his video *Black or White*, which was premiered in America and Britain last Thursday night, has so incensed many of his millions of fans that he has been forced to slice at least four minutes from the \$4 million (£2.26 million) film, the first released from his long-awaited album, *Dangerous*.

The cut footage includes a sequence in which a black panther changes into Jackson, who then climbs on top of a car in a dimly lit street and starts wantonly to smash the windows with a crowbar and dance on the roof. He then wiggles and thrusts his hips around and plays with the flies of his trousers. John Landis, the director of the \$100,000-a-minute film, said the controversial sequence was "a performance piece" that could stand on its own. But could stand on its own. But Jackson has been accused of stealing the crutch-rubbing idea from his friend Madonna, who employed a similar sequence in a video to generate publicity. The film by the "gloved

one" broke all viewing records in the five-year history of Fox TV after being introduced by Bart Simpson, who appears in the video. The following day, the switchboards at the station were swamped by complaints.

"It upsets me to think that *Black or White* could influence any child or adult to destructive behaviour, either sexual or violent," said Jackson in a statement. "I have always tried to be a good role model and therefore have made these changes to avoid any possibility of adversely affecting any individual's behaviour."

A half-page review in *The New York Times* at the weekend asked whether the violence was a befuddled attempt to assert Jackson's masculinity and "a desperate cry for attention from one of the world's most famous people". Although the song is supposed to have a simple anti-racist theme, its message is complicated by the fact that Jackson's brother has recently accused him of spending vast sums on altering his skin pigment chemically to become more "white" than black.

Jackson is reported to have recently signed a \$1 billion deal with Sony.

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CINEMA

Growing up is tough in Hollywood

What price a moppet who outgrows cuteness? David Robinson looks at the mixed prospects for the tots who turn into screen titans

Gregory Scott has just been signed by a Hollywood company on an exclusive five-year contract as a film director. What makes the deal a shade unusual is that Gregory is only five years old, attends kindergarten at Tarzana, California, and is still struggling to read and write.

He was engaged on the strength of home videos he had made with his school friends and his first assignment will be to direct a segment in a one-hour children's television special. He will earn a four-figure weekly salary in his first year, five figures later; the company declines to be more specific.

As the youngest professional director in history, Gregory has been much featured on television, telling the viewers, "I sure like being here better than school". Asked why he believes grown-up actors will take direction from one so small, he shows the instincts of a Michael Winner or a Michael Cimino. "Cause if they don't do what I say, they know they're OUT!" he squeals.

Hollywood seems indeed to have fallen prey to babies. While recession is diminishing the bargaining power of other stars, 11-year-old Macaulay Culkin can call the shots alongside Arnold Schwarzenegger, Mel Gibson and Julia Roberts.

Culkin is the little boy in *Home Alone*, with wide-open eyes, a wide-open mouth, and not many expressions but a piercing scream. His comic exploits in foiling burglars with booby-traps and electrocution delighted audiences worldwide and made *Home Alone* the third biggest box-office earner of all time. In the past month, the film has broken all records in the video cassette market, with sales of 15 million.

Culkin is now a Hollywood personality, presenting Emmy awards and guesting in Michael Jackson's controversial, latest promotional video. More important, he is said to be getting \$4.5 million

(£2.5 million) plus five per cent of the gross box-office take for his role in *Home Alone II*, which starts shooting next month. (*Home Alone* has already grossed about \$500 million.)

Meanwhile the trade papers are filled with reports of the negotiations of Culkin and his father (a would-be actor, like most movie kids' parents) for his future films. Because Macaulay wanted to play in the forthcoming film *The Good Son*, though the director Michael Hoffman is said to have preferred another actor, the company has

'Child stars are lucky if they can pass the adolescent sell-by date without being discarded'

postponed the production, at great cost, to accommodate him.

Culkin is not the first child to have Hollywood at his feet: long ago there were Jackie Coogan, Mickey Rooney, Shirley Temple and Judy Garland. Their experiences, among others, show that the career expectancy of child stars is dubious. Already there is something ominous in the choice of words with which Columbia Pictures rejected a request for a magazine interview with Culkin: the parents, they said, were "watching this commodity very closely".

Commodities have limited shelf life; and child stars are lucky if they can pass the adolescent sell-by date without being discarded. Louis B. Mayer is said to have told 14-year-old Mickey Rooney: "Adolescence is repulsive."

A few have won through unscathed. Roddick MacDowell, Kurt Russell and River Phoenix are

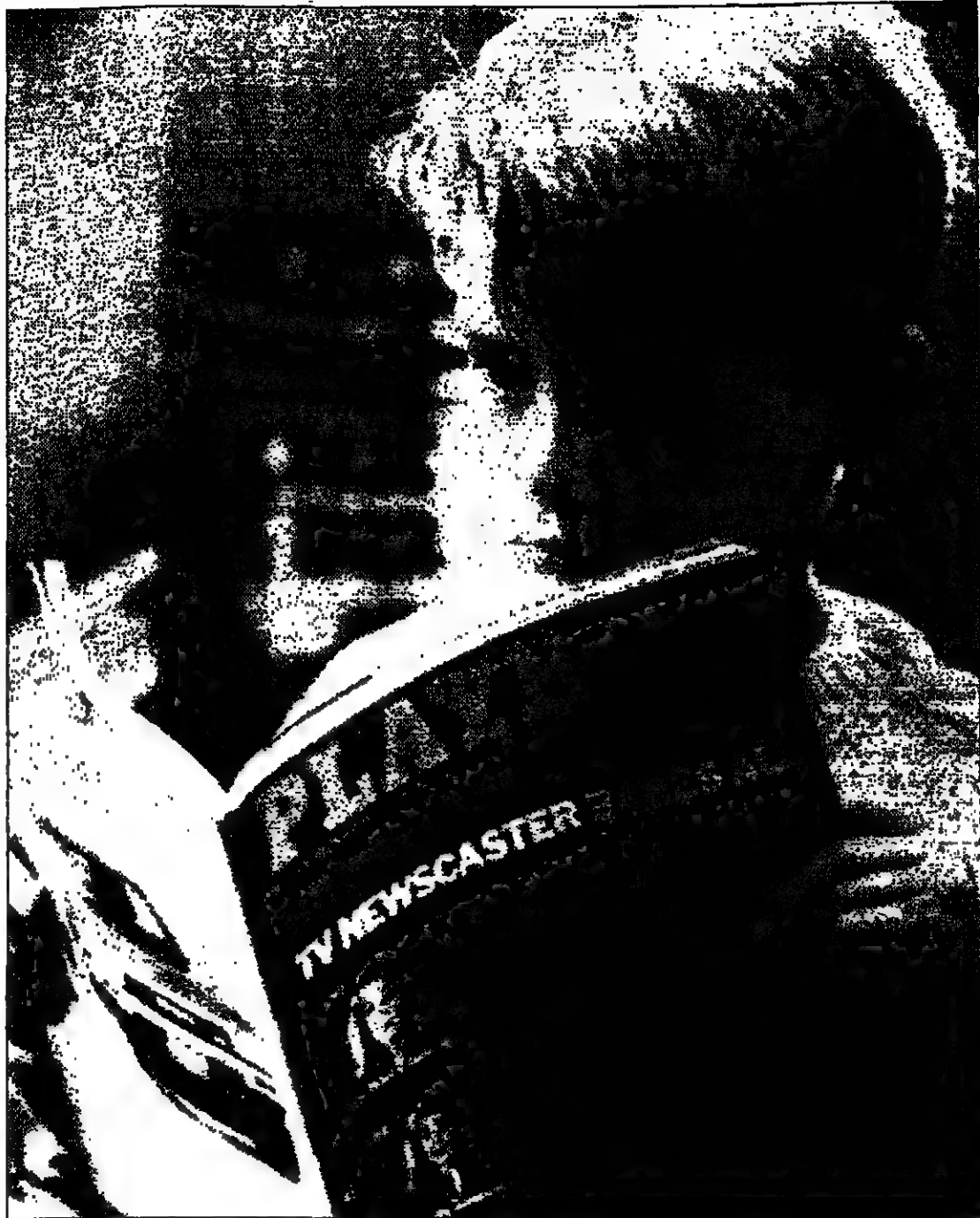
among those lucky ones who have easily metamorphosed into adult actors. Shirley Temple Black is a diplomat. Jodie Foster has followed in the footsteps of another child star, Ron Howard, to become a successful director with her first film, *Little Man Tate*.

A week or so ago I tracked down Billy Jacobs, America's first child star, who was in Keystone Comedies in 1913, before Charles Chaplin arrived there. A child prodigy, he retired at the age of eight and tried to forget the moving pictures. Today, a highly articulate man in his early eighties, he is talking about his first career again: "That was a kind time, not like now. They cared for me, saw that I got the right things to eat, that I had my lessons. I couldn't have come to any harm."

The ones who did come to harm generally seemed to be the sweetest and cutest. The greatest of them was Jackie Coogan, Chaplin's co-star in *The Kid*. Jackie was so exploited by his mother and stepfather that his misfortunes led to the passage of what is still known as "The Coogan Act", designed to protect the earnings of child actors.

The misfortunes of Judy Garland, introduced to drug use while still a child at MGM, are notorious. Bobby Driscoll, the nine-year-old star of Walt Disney's *Song of the South* who won an Oscar at 12, died at 31, after years of drug abuse, in an abandoned tenement. Last year, at the age of 16, Drew Barrymore, the adorable seven-year-old moppet in *E.T.*, published an autobiography, *Little Girl Lost*, which detailed years of drug abuse and institutionalisation.

Culkin, too, must recognise that his wide-eyed face may well be his fortune only till acne takes possession. He must make provision for the future. Who knows, one day he could have the luck to be directed by Gregory Scott.



Macaulay Culkin: the appeal of the star of *Home Alone* may fade with the onset of adolescence

Writers reign

CHARLES Haughey, the Irish prime minister, will open the new Dublin Writers Museum this afternoon. Two 18th century residences in Parnell Square have been requisitioned to house the museum and an Irish Writers' Centre for contemporary authors. The museum boasts such curiosities as the death mask of Patrick Kavanagh, Brendan Behan's typewriter and James Joyce's piano; it also houses early Irish texts of the Bible and material relating to such literary giants as Swift, Bram Stoker, Yeats, O'Casey, Beckett and Flann O'Brien. Ireland already has specialist museums devoted to Joyce, Shaw, Yeats and Parnell.

Last chance...

THERE may be argument about the standing of Vanessa Bell and her sometime lover Duncan Grant as fine artists. But few have ever denied their bounding invention as designers and decorators, starting with the elegantly amateur Omega Workshop and becoming much more professional later. The show at Spink & Son Ltd (071-930 7888), *Duncan Grant and Vanessa Bell: Design and Decoration 1910-1960*, shows their talents at their freshest and best. Until Friday.

ARTS REVIEWS

Diana Ross, Verdi and Rostropovich

page 26

Advance Australia, fair enough

Robert Cockburn welcomes a new showcase for contemporary art, feeding the voracious Australian public appetite for culture

them feel starved of information about the arts. Visitors are amazed at the amount of information people in Australia have about artistic issues, far more than, say, people in the middle of the United States or Europe.

The MCA, the country's first major contemporary arts venue, would be a guaranteed crowd puller if only for its stunning waterfront location between Sydney Harbour Bridge and the Opera House. And on its opening day there was a startling immediacy about the place: last-minute hammering and the smell of fresh paint gave the im-

pression that the exhibited artists had just put the finishing touches to their work. More than 400 paintings and sculptures are displayed in halls that glow with Sydney's natural sub-tropical light. Works, including Roy Lichtenstein's *Foot and hand*; Michael Johnson's early abstract *One Two Three*; Sean Scully's *Orange Slide*; and Maria Kozic's *Masterpieces (Warhol)*, a 1986 synthetic polymer on wood, are grouped thematically, with the reasoning inscribed on the walls.

The most prominent theme is the one that haunts modern Australia: identity, and guilt over the eradication of the 50,000-year-old Aboriginal culture. Anglo-Saxon Australia still seems one step away from its contemporary story, uneasy that its brief colonial history is dissolving into one of the most cosmopolitan countries on earth, and hating to admit it. And yet this is the landscape being defined by Australia's best artists today. They are documenting a changing culture more honestly than the media or popular entertainment dares.

Forced ever nearer to self-sufficiency, the company has to balance its performances between popular works by predominantly overseas writers and high-risk pieces by

Australian artist Juan Davis, for instance, comes up with a grim and hilarious satire in a series "The Fable of Australia". These portray both the degradation of the Aborigines and Eighties' greed, writ large in the slogan "I don't know much about art but I know what appreciates."

State input is marginal. The MCA is an achievement of ingenuity on a shoestring budget for Paroissien and co-curator Bernice Murphy. A £2 million bequest 20 years ago by the Australian artist John Power went only partly to realise the museum and its collection of some 4,500 works.

These are housed in the superbly converted former maritime services headquarters on Circular Quay - Australia's equivalent to Ellis Island, where a migrant nation arrived in ocean liners in the Fifties and Sixties. In the next bay around from the Museum of Contemporary Art, in another world-beating location, stands the Sydney Theatre Company's Wharf, an exposed-timber warehouse, overlooking the harbour and the bridge.

Forced ever nearer to self-sufficiency, the company has to balance its performances between popular works by predominantly overseas writers and high-risk pieces by

such writers as Michael Gow, Australia's most exhilarating new playwright. Gow's latest play, *Parables*, opened this month, shocking a fairly easily shocked public by showing men kissing men.

"A lot of Australians want to be treated like the retarded," says Gow. "They don't want that cold blast of sensation." His work has moved on from the classroom with its didactic identity. Castigated by the critics at home, he is critical of the clubby establishment that sits Australia's academies, and of the failure to push Australian work overseas.

After years of trying, his first play is about to be staged in Britain. *Parables* is Edinburgh's Theatre Theatre. But he feels the British still show "a very patronising attitude to work that comes from here. I've had much more success in US regional theatres. They don't have the British attitude that 'we invented theatre'. We need to shove the things in their faces. They are prepared to make jokes about *Neighbours*, but at least it's better than the 80 per cent of crap from Britain."

Yet, for all the interests in "The Yaris", there is still a feeling in Australia that the real stuff is something that comes from overseas. The "Cultural Cringe" is a phrase that sums up the bogus elitism of Australia's middle classes. As Barry Humphries also said: "Australian society is a contradiction in terms."



Masterpieces (Warhol), a painting by Maria Kozic, is one of more than 400 works on show at the new Australian Museum of Contemporary Art, in Sydney

Barry Humphries' debauched Australian character Sir Les Patterson fixed the notion in our minds when he laughingly dismissed them as "The Yaris". The truth is that Australians not only take the arts more seriously than their European counterparts (sometimes insufferably so), they are also practising deconstruction to breathtaking effect with the opening of the new Museum of Contemporary Art in Sydney last week.

"He just wanted to see how they were fitted on," said the attendant who spotted a founding member trying to pull off one of the many white cubes on *Atmosphere Chromoplastique 154*, the museum's prized 1966 example of French painter Luis Tomasello's work. The inquisitive visitor was one of 6,000 Australians who clamoured to join the museum.

"The works are so tactile," the attendant said. "Sometimes it is hard to resist

touching." Anywhere else, the man would have been removed in a headlock. But the T-shirted army of young artists and specialists, who replace uniformed security men here, show such enthusiasm for the MCA's works (most hidden away for 20 years), that they might almost be selling them to you.

The connection is not entirely coincidental. Australia's arts structure and audiences have changed. The award-winning artist Keith Looby says art has been taken over by "corporate dictators" and a middle-class establishment stifling creativity. Art, Looby says, is equated with "good living, food and wine".

Leon Paroissien, the MCA director, says: "Australia is a very literary society. Australians are paranoid with distance and isolation. It makes

TELEVISION

Not shaken, not stirred

In the smoky gallery of a first world war London music hall, an intelligence chief and a would-be secret agent sit anonymously amongst the cloth caps and muffs of the common man, waiting impatiently while on-stage a tarted buffoon finishes a comic song. They have come to see the evening's star attraction, an exotic female dancer who appears under the promising soubriquet "The girl you can't forget".

The curtain rises to reveal Harriet Walter in Spanish flamenco *mujer*, performing a slow haughty dance with fan, shawl and kiss-curls (though luckily without a rose between her teeth), and glowering in the limelight like a hot-blooded Latin woman with

pain in her heart. Backstage afterwards, this lovely woman is frogmarched from her dressing room and taken into custody, to be released only on condition that she help British intelligence to trap a stage-door johnny: an Indian anti-British terrorist called Lal, who works for the Germans.

It sounds like the groundwork for a rattling good adventure story - in which the *sine qua non* would be the violent death of the dancer, possibly by deliberately stopping a bullet intended for someone else. But what was strange about last night's first story in the Ashenden series (BBC 1) was that it contained virtually no adventure and minimal suspense.

Ashenden (Alex Jennings) is a successful, debonair playwright, ambitious to prove himself worthy of a job in wartime intelligence, but this first mission is actually an extremely bathetic one, devoid of personal danger. He must accompany the dancer to the French bank of Lake Geneva and merely dictate provocative letters for her to send to her admirer - the idea being that the terrorist's passion will draw him irresistibly across the lake from the safety of Switzerland. If the mission does not succeed, the consequences are - well, the consequences are actually unspecified.

So we forget about action and suspense (we are reasonable people), and say "So it's about the power of love, then, is it?" But *Ashenden* (written by David Pirie and directed by Christopher Morahan) was so damned cool as a piece of drama that even the all-important love interest was distinctly chilled. The central question was: will the terrorist come? Yet although scene after scene took place on the

jetty (watching the picturesque lake-steamer going in and out), personally I never cared whether the man would come, and was only vaguely interested when he at last showed up.

I did not feel sorry for the unseen Mr Lal; and I had no idea how he felt. Was he a bad man? He was on screen only long enough for him to be shot dead, so it was impossible to share his dilemma or tragedy.

Meanwhile Giulia (Harriet Walter) suffered agonies over penning the letters but still seemed mostly concerned with saving her own skin, which is an unsympathetic trait in this kind of context. If only she had stopped a bullet or two; or attempted to signal at night by waving storm lanterns from a mountainside. If only we had seen her gazing desperately at her lover's picture, and breaking a bead necklace with her bare hands.

Oh well, such sensationalism and passion were not to be. Finally, in fact, the question centred on whether a playwright's instincts about human nature can be an asset in the espionage business; and the answer was yes, especially when one's boss (played by Ian Bannen) is so peculiarly deficient in the finer feelings department that he is borderline psychotic.

Ashenden, in common with his original creator Somerset Maugham, seems to be a mixture of cynic and humanist; he is cold and immovable (like a fish in aspic), yet his mission succeeds precisely because he understands the human heart. Perhaps his wartime experiences will provide some kind of sentimental education. We shall see.

LYNNE TRUSS

WHY DO THE BRITISH WORRY ABOUT LEAGUE TABLES?



Baroness Perry does not believe that schools and teachers have anything to hide from parents. She explains why in *The TES* this Friday.

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On week 13 of the Orkney child abuse enquiry, Peter Barnard looks at the hidden tensions of a remote island community

Behind the mask of the Orkneys



Aspects of the islanders: Shona Stamper, an English "settler" and her Orcadian business partner Gus Glue and (right) Brigadier Malcolm Gray Dennison, the Lord Lieutenant, who worries for the future of the Orkneys

A WIND that feels like something ordered up for a remake of *Moby Dick* is crashing around Kirkwall. Fishing boats sway under the assault and in Bridge Street, just off the harbour, valiant folk heading north take a breather by leaning against the gale which is heading south. Rain spits to the face and permeates the clothes. Lamps sway, their bulbs flicker. In this bleak coastal all you need is a halfway decent imagination to conjure up a scene of recent newspaper headlines to believe that something evil could have happened here. But wait. Gates blow down the Charing Cross Road and rain spits on Surrey. Leave the night to itself and wake up next morning to bright sunshine and a breeze. Walk up Bridge Street past the bakery and the television store and the craft shops, talk to friendly people bemused by what their own social services department appears to have visited upon them. Dispense with the melodrama and you are left with only two questions worth addressing: are island communities different? And if they are, how are they different?

ON February 27 this year, nine children were taken from their homes on South Ronaldsay, 15 miles south of Kirkwall and joined by a canoeist to the main Orkney island. It was a dawn raid. It put all of the Orkneys, not just South Ronaldsay, into the headlines and under the microscope alongside Cleveland and Rochdale. What did or did not happen in the Orkneys is the subject of an enquiry in Kirkwall town hall for which mainland lawyers fly in by chartered plane and bus. The central allegations about child abuse, including alleged satanic rituals lit by car headlights at a shallow quarry, have, at the enquiry, very nearly been overshadowed by charges over the behaviour of the social services department. The four families from which the nine children were removed are not Orcadians.

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HOUSE MOVERS

Some incomers bring preconceived ideas about how things should be done here

"We have no fear at all," she says. "If we had, we would hardly be taking Emma into that community. The real problem between Orcadians and incomers is the attitude of some incomers. They bring preconceived ideas about how things should be done into a community which has always done things in a certain way. Many of these people say 'we came up and go away complaining about the locals, but it is their own fault.'"

Mr Glue defines the tension as being between city types and rural types, wherever they come from. "You get people who move here after a holiday without the slightest idea of what they will do, they'll even buy a house on the basis of an aerial photograph."

There is another aspect of the same problem. Incomers to this type of community start on a high but they often fail to notice that they are being watched. They mistake friendliness for gullibility.

they fail to learn the rules. Mr Glue says: "Folk here operate a loan system. A tractor, a car, they'll lend it to you. But they expect something back. Very often incomers will borrow, say, a tractor this year but they offer nothing in return and the following year they go back for the tractor and the farmer says 'Aye, £10 an hour'. And the incomer thinks 'bastard'."

When the Stampers arrived at their present home on Rousay, an island of a couple of hundred people north of the main island, they set themselves the ultimate test of assimilation: Phil Stamper, who had run a foundry in England, set about becoming a fisherman. He had been a diver, but fishing communities are not famous for welcoming people they suspect of dabbling. Mrs Stamper says: "We had nothing but help. They helped us get creels (for lobster) and Phil learnt as he went along. He used to sit in front of the fire at night learning knots from books. But he put something back in with his diving, he was able to help the community."

This inter-dependence is a recurrent theme all over the islands. The Orkneys have been settled since 4,000 BC and one of their best-known writers, George Mackay Brown, wrote a book titled *What is an Orcadian?* in which his central answer was: "A fine mixture-matter. That morsel from a locally

developed lexicon needs no definition to be understood. Gus Glue's father, a naval man, married the girl in this particular port. The islands are founded on many such service marriages, as well as long and short-term visitations from the Picts, the Vikings and assorted whaling fleets.

All of that was, however, gradual: an extension of natural change. If there is concern about modern invaders, it lies in the suddenness and the artificiality of people moving in for reasons which are a mix of economics and a romantic attraction, notions which are often mutually exclusive.

Brigadier Malcolm Gray Dennison, an Orcadian who, 15 months ago, became Lord Lieutenant of the islands, lives alone in a landmark of a house on South Ronaldsay. He overlooks St Margaret's Hope in one direction, Scapa Flow in another, the flare from an Elf oil terminal in a third. From his conservatory he describes this panorama lovingly, but he worries for the future.

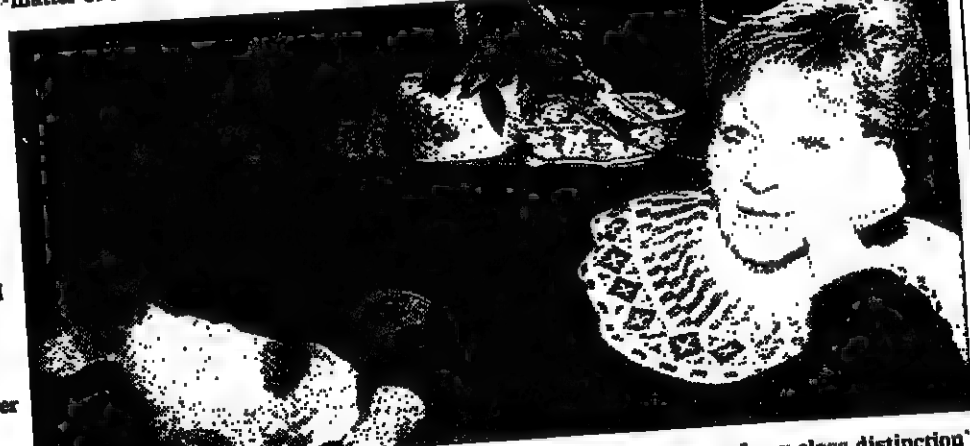
"The fishing here is being ruined by over-fishing and they are not the fault of the people who come here," he says. "Visitors we want, tourists we do not want. The difference is crucial. Tourism will ruin Orkney if it is not controlled. But these are matters for Orcadians to sort out, they are not the fault of the people who come here."

Brigadier Dennison is as bemused as most other people by the child abuse allegations:

LORD LIEUTENANT
'When I left a light on at 4am it was reported to the district nurse by a kindly neighbour'

"Let me tell you how close the community is. The other night I left a light on and someone saw it burning at 4am. At nine the district nurse came to see if I was ill because the light burning had been reported to her by a kindly neighbour."

Whatever has or has not happened on Brigadier Dennison's islands, it has been shown elsewhere that in child abuse cases, the truth is an elusive. But notoriety will fade, leaving the Orkneys to get on with the task of assimilating new generations and ideas while maintaining the indefinable qualities which make the community viable and attractive.



Island idyll: Sheila Thomas finds "the striking thing is the lack of any class distinction"

Sheila Thomas is a 47-year-old Englishwoman who with her husband Chris, aged 43, moved to Stromness, on the eastern tip of the main island, 15 years ago. She runs a guest house and some holiday flats, he runs a restaurant in the town. "We find there is complete trust between the Orcadians and ourselves," Mrs Thomas says. "You get the occasional awkward old beggar but the striking thing is the lack of any class distinction. You play golf with the butcher, the baker, the solicitor. And you feel safe: we came from near Ipswich in Suffolk and there we were always afraid for the children. In fact, some time ago we had to go away for two months and we left one of the children with a local family without qualms."

But Stromness is not South Ronaldsay. There is a theory, and that is concerning the nature of the latter. For most of the people there, the word "Press" may as well have four letters but in private conversa-

LANDLADY
'We went away and left one of the children with a local family without qualms'

tion some of the local people show a pride in the island which is separate from their pride in the Orkneys. The island acquired a causeway link with the main island only in the 1940s and that has helped to maintain an independence of spirit which is less apparent elsewhere.

That independence has made South Ronaldsay the butt of jokes elsewhere in the Orkneys. In Kirkwall, it is said that people were sent to South Ronaldsay when they became too odd to continue living in John O'Groats, which is regarded as odd.

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Tight limits on Labour

Peter Riddell believes a Kinnock cabinet will be less radical than expected

RIDDELL ON MONDAY

It is time to take Labour seriously. After the next election it is as likely that there will be a hung parliament, and possibly a minority Labour government, as that the Tories will be returned with an overall majority of 25 to 30 seats.

No one is quite sure what a Labour government would mean. Party leaders both offer reassurance and promise change. Would a Labour government be conservative or radical? Ministers are torn between denouncing Neil Kinnock for abandoning all his principles in pursuit of office and arguing that socialist intentions are not far below the surface. How much has Labour really changed?

There are equal dangers of exaggerating and of understating Labour's shift. Labour has purged itself of the fervours of the early 1980s. Bennism is now the faith of a small sect. The party is back in the social-democratic mainstream. But rejecting Bennism does not mean embracing Thatcherism. The ideological convergence in British politics is as much because John Major has softened the edges of Thatcherism — by, for example, stressing the maintenance of high quality public services — as because of Labour's policy review. We are back to the party competition of the 1950s and early 1960s.

There is a tendency to see politics in either/or terms, when in practice it is more of a spectrum. Labour has moved towards the centre but stopped short of the (also shifting) Tory position. The two main parties do not have an identical appeal or values; they represent different interests and groups. Labour still has a greater faith than the Tories in the state's ability to have a beneficial influence, though now mainly as a catalyst.

Three election defeats and a near desperation for office have been the spur to change. Take Europe, where there has been a dramatic shift between the call in the early 1980s for withdrawal from the Community and the present enthusiastic endorsement of closer union. Of course, Labour is keen to take advantage of Tory splits and has had a free ride, being able to express general support for Britain playing a positive role in European developments, while leaving the government to face the difficulties of negotiations.

But the shift is genuine, in part because trade unions and local authorities, the party's main constituencies, find it easier to deal with the commission in Brussels than the government in London. When Labour was still in the doldrums, Jacques Delors offered a European vision of the future more appealing to the unions and the party than the immediate frustrations of Thatcherism. That itself is a source of suspicion for Tory critics who argue that Labour is seeking to dress up its old interventionist aspirations in Euro-clothes.

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'Labour's difficulty is to assure voters life will improve without scaring them'

how to assure voters that life would improve under a Kinnock government without scaring them. That is reflected in the party's convolutions over spending and tax policy. While individual spokesmen talk about billions of underfunding in this or that sector, the leadership says that improved public services will be financed from tax revenue produced by economic growth. Labour does not at present intend to produce a detailed costing of its proposals. But there is now hardly any room to raise borrowing in view of the Tories' spending plans.

The party's already battered response is to argue that, unlike the Tories, it is not offering the unsustainable goal of tax cuts as well as improved public services, and that, unlike the Liberal Democrats, it is not considering an increase in basic tax rates. Mr Kinnock's advisers say their priority is to avoid being elected on a false prospectus, leading to disappointment. One shadow cabinet member talks of raising hopes, not expectations. That is hardly an election winning slogan. Much would, of course, depend on any Labour government's position in Parliament — and an overall majority looks unlikely at first. The probability is that there would be considerable continuity in macro-economic and foreign policy, changes at the margin in the distribution of taxes and benefits, and a flow of relatively cheap public-sector initiatives. Labour is offering a choice, but not a counter-revolution.

Louisiana's defeated racist is now a power in the land, says Peter Stothard in New Orleans

Duke's big chance

David Duke, still ebullient amid the landslide of votes cast against him, predicted yesterday that his message would go marching on. Many of his opponents, particularly those who were not drunk on their unexpectedly decisive success in the Louisiana governorship race, reluctantly agreed with him.

Throughout the bayou state it had been a long battle between fear and anger. When the votes were cast on Saturday, fear of being governed by a former Ku Klux Klansman and neo-Nazi brought more black voters to the polling booths than ever before. Fear of economic isolation under a Duke governorship brought white professionals out to support the corruption-tainted Edwin Edwards in numbers not even he had expected.

In the French quarter of New Orleans the mood was Mardi Gras until dawn yesterday as "stop Duke" campaign workers celebrated. But throughout the rest of the country politicians greeted the result more soberly. From the west coast to the White House minds were concentrated on the 55 per cent of Louisiana's white popula-

tion who were not dancing. There are Duke voters in every state, said Bob Mulholland, the California Democratic political director who was one of many professional campaigners to come to Louisiana to feel for themselves the Duke effect. Mr Duke drew his support from whites who are suffering economically and blame their plight on the 1960s civil-rights programmes that protect black jobs and benefits. Anger lost this race. Fewer than expected whites backed the Duke message on Saturday. But the intensity of those who did at the final rallies — sobbing rage at the final rallies — has left a deeper mark on those who attended than have the voting figures.

For the past few weeks, while Democrat and Republican leaders in Washington have been tinkering with the unpopular "affirmative action" laws in a new Civil Rights Act, Mr Duke has been saying that racial employment

preference for blacks is wrong. Most American whites, according to opinion polls, agree with him. Early this year Mr Duke stood in the dirty margins of America's race debate, where President Bush says he belongs. Today, buoyed by almost 700,000 votes and national press attention, he stands as the rock around which all tides of that debate must now flow. Like many significant political events, the results of the Louisiana election will be unclear for some time. Immediate effects may conflict. On the one hand, senior Republicans, including the president, will find it harder to fight against unpopular racial employment rules for fear of being dubbed a racist and a Duke. On the other hand, lesser political figures, in northern cities as well as throughout the south, will be tempted to try for themselves the Duke recipe. The overall result is likely to be a heightening of racial tension. Mr

Duke himself is planning to stand for Congress and to challenge Mr Bush in the Republican primaries next year. His defeat has heightened the pressure on him to win a congressional seat if he is to avoid the charge of being merely a permanent campaigner, a Jesse Jackson of the right. A successful congressional campaign in a white district of Louisiana ought to be within his grasp.

Louisiana Democrats yesterday boasted that the "evil tide" of Dukeism had been turned and that their adversary would become even less electable. But that is what they and many others in the state want to believe. The chief concern among business and labour organisations, after months of bad publicity for Louisiana, is to return as fast as possible to making money and attracting tourists.

Mr Duke is no longer merely a local figure. His successes so far may be attributed in some degree to the bizarre history of Louisiana,

which 150 years ago exhibited a peculiarly pure form of racism, which suffered exceptionally after the civil war from imposed black governments, and was created in its modern form by the authoritarian rule of Huey Long. Mr Duke's future, however, will be no more easily confined to his home state than was that of the early Joe McCarthy, whose anti-communist witch-hunts of the 1950s bear portentous similarities to the 1990s campaign for white rights. It is hard for democracies to deal with those who are wholly willing to abandon consensus politics.

Two of the more sober Edwin Edwards supporters on Saturday were from the Midwest. They had watched the campaign and likened Duke to an early master of science fiction, the "Thing" that marches onwards, whatever bullets, electric shocks or barricades are in its path.

There has been much talk of bullets in Louisiana in recent weeks, and still more talk of barricades. An economic recovery is considered the most reliable weapon for stopping the message of David Duke. Even that may not be enough.

Let's go with the cash flow

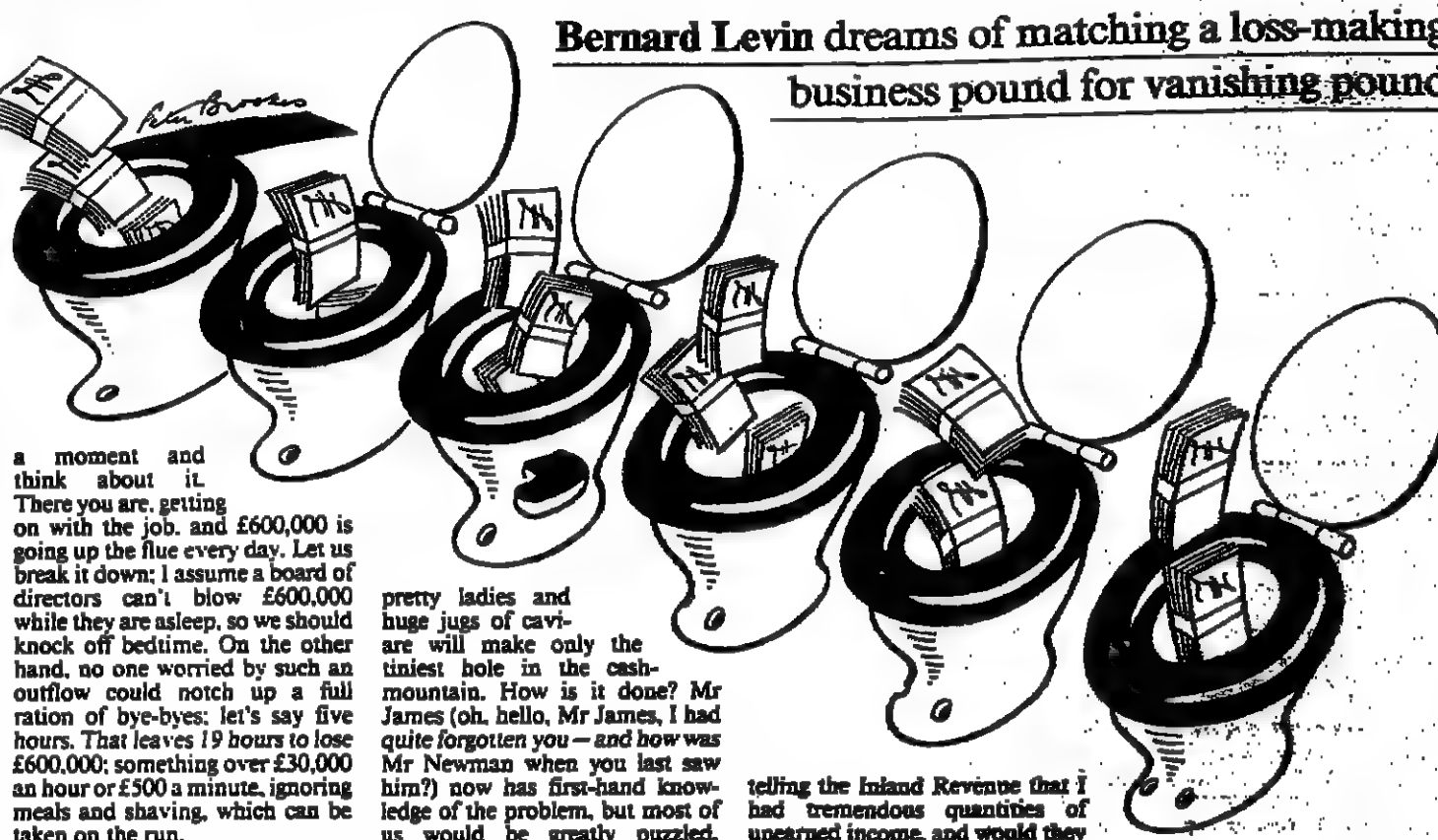
Bernard Levin dreams of matching a loss-making business pound for vanishing pound

I have a curious ambition, excited by a story in the financial pages, you will think me crazy when you know what it is, but first I must set the scene. There is a company called Newman & Newman Holdings. Newman was the founder of the business, but things went rather wrong, and in a reorganisation a year ago a Mr James moved in and became the boss, while Newman's holding of the shares shrank from 62 per cent to 4 per cent. (Well, poor old Newman, say I.)

Since the company's business came largely from an airline, when the Gulf war began and "not even pigeons", as Mr James put it, "were taking to the air", it is not surprising that business was going rather wrong. Actually, it was going quite frightfully wrong — the shares fell to 50p, though they had once been \$45p (the FT graph is enchanting — a perfect silhouette of the Himalayas), but James, though not necessarily Newman, was sure that there was sunshine behind those black clouds. Anyway, the company borrowed \$81 million from the bank (you try it): the story does not reveal which bank it was, though I hope — no doubt vainly — it wasn't mine.

Then there was a shareholders' meeting, at which James announced the moves which will, according to James, bring immense profits to the shareholders. They have not yet done so, unhappily, and my lack of understanding of these matters precludes any comment from me about another company announcement to the effect that directors' pay was going up from £501,000 to £704,000, including fees.

But all this is by the way. The bit that fascinated me, and left me with a curious longing, was that at one time the company "was losing £600,000 a day". That is my yearning. I want to lose £600,000 a day. I told you would think me odd, and I don't blame you. If we are bandying nouns about, most people would presumably wish the pounds to settle in their own pockets. So would I; but although huge riches would please me greatly, they would not stir the extraordinary feelings that the debit version does. Just stop what you are doing for



a moment and think about it. There you are, getting on with the job, and £600,000 is going up the flue every day. Let us break it down: I assume a board of directors can't blow £600,000 while they are asleep, so we should knock off bedtime. On the other hand, no one worried by such an outflow could notch up a full ration of by-byes: let's say five hours. That leaves 19 hours to lose £600,000: something over £30,000 an hour or £500 a minute, ignoring meals and shaving, which can be taken on the run.

Wouldn't it be fascinating? Of course, if we were gaining £600,000 a day it would be, as I say, very pleasant, but we can dream of winning the pools, whereas we can't dream of not winning the pools, unless we have very boring dreams. But losing £600,000 a day would be so unimaginably lurid an experience that it would be quite transfiguring.

There is, to start with, the obvious question: how is it done? However agile you are, it is not easy to get rid of £600 grand in a day — and certainly not every day. What's the trick?

I must rule out gambling on the ground that you can lose the lot on one horse or one spin of the roulette-wheel, which I call cheating. (And anyway, think of your dismay if the outsider came home at 50-1! No; in this endeavour it is necessary to lose £600,000 a day, and I want to know how you propose to do so.

Don't waste your time on luxuries; diamond necklaces for

pretty ladies and huge jugs of caviar will make only the tiniest hole in the cash-mountain. How is it done? Mr James (oh, hello, Mr James, I had quite forgotten you — and how was Mr Newman when you last saw him?) now has first-hand knowledge of the problem, but most of us would be greatly puzzled, particularly if we have no shares.

Nevertheless, if it was done that way once, it can be done twice. I can ask a stockbroker for the name of the worst share in the market — one that hasn't declared a dividend since 1822 — and tell him to buy thousands of them. But you can see what's coming, can't you? The word is out: Levin is into Consolidated Moonbeams plc in a large way, and Levin knows a thing or two. In no time, Consolidated Moonbeams, last quoted in 1937 at eightpence a hundredweight, has shot up to £42 a share close to close (whatever that might mean — Levin, truth to tell, does not know a thing or two, indeed knows nothing at all about these arcane matters), and so far from losing £600,000 a day, I am coining millions every minute.

King Midas didn't know when he was well off. But speculating in shares is clearly not on, at least for a man who needs to lose £600,000 a day. For a moment, I thought of

telling the Inland Revenue that I had tremendous quantities of unearned income, and would they kindly come and tax it; but apart from annoying them — annoying the Inland Revenue must, in the catalogue of dangerous sports, be second only to saddling a crocodile — they would take one look at my assets and classify me as a nutcase.

Besides, however big a sum I had for taxing, we have to remember that this is not a static problem; I have to lose £600,000 every day. How?

I could go back to the company and ask how I might manage it, but apart from awakening fresh grief, it would be a pretty feeble admission that I couldn't lose my own £600,000 a day. And that's the target: not a penny less than £600,000 oners, and by the rules of the game I have to lose the lot between midnight and midnight every day. It is all very well for me to say I want to for the feeling of losing £600,000 a day, but somebody has to ensure that the sportsman's there for losing, and it won't help for mother to point to this company and say: "Well, if

they can do it, why can't you?" She won't be satisfied if I say: "Mother, some people have a knack for losing £600,000 a day", all she will say then is "practise, practise, practise". (That's what she said about my violin-playing, and did I knock Heifetz off his perch?)

Am I never going to have the satisfaction of losing £600,000 a day? I tell you, it's the Devil's own job to imagine the sensation, never mind really feel it. But perhaps nature has dealt with that; we all have had news from time to time, and we bear it as best we can; when man was being created, nobody imagined that losing £600,000 a day would be an experience to relish, so the key to having it was left out. *Carpe diem quam minimum credula postero.* So said Horace, anyway, by which he meant "match the day, and distrust the morrow". It was all very well for him, but he didn't have to lose another £600,000 on both.



...and moreover MATTHEW PARRIS

The population of our country being more than 50 million, I reckon that if as few as 1 per cent of us write a two-page letter to the Boundary Commission for Wales, then the commission will be obliged to consider more than a million pages of new argument concerning a matter I am about to relate. My proposals are made in a spirit of pure malice. This is the story so far...

For 70 years, the constituency of Brecon and Radnor has been called Brecon and Radnor — and the world has continued in its orbit. However, "following an enquiry at Lampeter on 5 December 1990", reports the boundary commission, a new proposal that it be renamed "Brecon and Radnorshire" was aired. It came, we learn to our surprise, from Radnorshire district council. The proposal was published in April 1991.

It was not uncontroverted. Oh my goodness me no! "Formal objections were received" from the MP, Richard Livesey. Brecknock borough council (note: Brecknock — the plot thickens) "thought if likely" that it would have "wished to enter a counter-proposal" to Radnorshire district council's plans, if it had known about them earlier. Ha!

The assistant commissioner is an honourable man. There was no choice but to hold another enquiry. And so it came to pass that this July, amid the splendour of the council chamber of Powys county council, Gerard Elias QC sat down to hear the

further views of the people and their tribunes.

The Brecon and Radnor Conservatives suggested that the commissioners let well enough alone and stick with the old name. Conscious, perhaps, that this was to miss the point of these jamborees, they added that if we must have one "shire" then we should have two: "Breconshire and Radnorshire". Plaid Cymru, in the shape of Rhodri Thomas, agreed that one shire was anomalous but could not follow the Tories in proposing two. Why? "Pompous, pretensions and far too long-winded" were just a few of Mr Thomas's many words on the subject.

The Liberal Democrat MP, you will be astonished to hear, could not make up his mind. "There are two options," he wrote: "on balance" they should "probably" not change, but they very well might, and he wouldn't mind if they did.

But not to Brecon and Radnorshire, he felt. Better still would be an altogether new idea, advanced by the Welsh Liberal (not Liberal Democrat) party. Their Rif Winfield proposed "Brecknock and Radnorshire".

Geoffrey Charles Read, BA, C Eng, described by the commissioners as "chief executive of the Radnorshire borough council" (a mysterious new body, as, so far, we have met only the council alone as "chief executive of the Radnorshire borough council") "knew from personal knowledge" that the name Radnorshire "was warmly welcomed by many organisations and individ-

uals. As for whether Brecon should become Brecknock Mr Read "was understandably reticent... indicating that it was more a matter for Brecknock borough council". Curiously, Brecknock borough council, which had complained about the first proposals, chose to make no comments on the second. Why? We may never know.

The final recommendation from Mr Elias QC is magnificent. A monument both to lucidity and justice, the text is infused with a deep sensitivity and strong sense of fair play: "... obvious strength of feeling... lack of rooted objection... I have no doubt... a matter of logic as well as general acceptance... I therefore recommend..."

Brecknock and Radnorshire it is! Brecknock gets "Brecknock" and Radnorshire gets "Radnorshire" and the constituency gets seven more letters in its name. And everybody has to change notepaper and commit the new title to heart.

But not quite yet. For that is only a "revised" recommendation. The world has until November 24 to propose further revisions. Anyone can write — to Mr R. MacLeod, the secretary, Boundary Commission for Wales, St Catherine's House, 61P Kingsway, London WC2B 6JP — with views and ideas. What Brecknock and Radnock? For instance, or "Radon and Brecknockshire", or "Radbrecknock", or "Reddibreck", or... isn't democracy marvellous!

Judgment on Vukovar

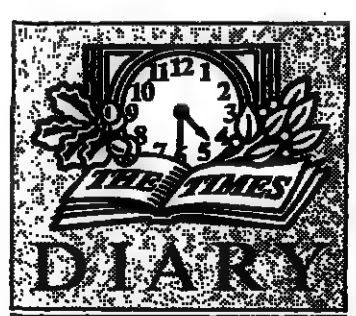
VUKOVAR has finally fallen after 86 days, but were the Croats crying wolf when they warned of its impending fall months ago? The question has some significance, with Yugoslav federal forces now claimed to be on the point of toppling Dubrovnik.

General Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley, a military historian, says: "I don't think the Croats have been at all alarmist. The Serbian firepower was infinitely superior and the Croats had every reason to fear that."

However, the fall owed little to Serbian skill. Sir Anthony says: "Despite their superiority the federal forces either did not have the heart or the skill for street fighting, which is the only way you can hope to take a town. Just look at the stand-off with tanks and ships ringing Dubrovnik."

"I would say this is nearer the Spanish civil war than the second world war. The chaos in Spain was characterised by an appalling lack of skill and knowledge of fighting. By contrast, in the great city battles of the second world war, troops were involved in long-drawn-out close action in street fighting. In Stalingrad the Germans sent their troops on to the streets, with both sides losing colossal numbers of men."

However, his view is not shared by Sir Michael Howard, professor of history at Yale University. He says: "I would hypothesise that if the Serbian army had wanted to, it could have overwhelmed Vukovar earlier. There were probably also disagreements in the high command on taking the town, with some arguing that international opinion would not allow an all-out thrust. It is difficult to say what finally decided the fall,



but it could have been to secure the town to strengthen their position before negotiations."

Edward Heath has been given a head start in today's Oxford Union debate on European union. Just before his duel with Norman Tebbit begins, a bronze bust of Heath, a former president of the Union, will be unveiled in the debating chamber.

Man of affairs

THE LATEST biographer of George Orwell, Michael Sheldon, has clashed with the family of a man he suggests had an affair with the author's first wife. Sheldon's book, *Orwell*, suggests a liaison between Eileen Blair and George Kopp, one of Orwell's friends, while the two men were on the same side in the Spanish civil war. But Kopp's son, Quentin, aged 44, says the claims are untrue. "My father was a charismatic man. No doubt when he came into a room, all female heads turned. I bet Eileen was one of them," Kopp says that "Sheldon's claims are based on the testimonies of impressionable 18-year-olds" who were in the same military unit fighting the fascists.

But Sheldon is unrepentant. "My research strongly suggests an affair." As evidence, he cites his interview with Pierre, Kopp's son

by his first marriage, who confirmed that there was a "strong possibility" of his father philandering.

Sheldon adds: "I don't know how Quentin Kopp can be so sure. He is keen to defend his father's honour. But how can he know what happened? He wasn't alive when these events took place. When his father died he was only seven years old."

Charter tours

FLEDGLING democracies around the world may soon have their very own versions of the Magna Carta if they can stretch to the asking price of £50,000. Salisbury Cathedral, needing £500,000 to complete its £6 million appeal to rebuild the spire, is creating 13 facsimiles of its copy of the document — one of four in existence — to raise the money.

"They will be made available for wealthy nationals of democratic nations to purchase with a

The photocopyers on the blink



view to presenting them to their own parliaments," writes the Dean, the Very Rev Hugh Dickinson, in the cathedral newsletter. Included in the price is the prospect of a formal presentation of the document by the Prince of

Wales, president of the spire trust, though sadly the ceremony will not take place at Runnymede, where King John signed the original document in 1215.

The scheme has its detractors. Martyn Goff, chairman of Henry Sotherton, the antiquarian bookshop, says: "I can't see anyone paying that much money. Anyway, I think that facsimiles of such a precious document dilute the original because reproductions are so good now. I'm sure there are better ways of raising money."

Then there is the parlous economic state of the new democracies. Tereze Svilans, of the Latvian delegation in London, says: "We have much more important things to spend our money on, even if this is for charity. We need to build up our health service. With an economy the size of Boots, I can't see us getting involved in such a scheme."

G-whizz

FRANCE has not only won the race to develop the first high-speed Channel tunnel rail link, it has achieved a coup of one-upmanship with a state-of-the-art simulator to train the tunnel drivers.

British Rail last week unveiled its own simulator, but the SNCF version is streets, or rails, ahead. The British model has a video recording of the whole journey from London to Paris, complete with simulated leaves and snow on the line. To the French these are minor accessories. Their version will simulate the G-force and give a feeling of what it is actually like to accelerate and decelerate.

"By the time they make their first trip underground our drivers will feel they have already made the journey," says one French source. British Rail is putting a brave face on it. "We don't think all this is necessary," it says.



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Merits of ban on tobacco advertising

NEW RELEASES

CITY OF HOPE (15): John Sayles's dark, multi-layered tale of conflicts arising in a New Jersey town. Titled, but not dealing with electricity. Starring Vincent Spano, Joe Morton, Cannon Chabon (071-332 5088) Gate (071-727 4043) M (071-437 0767) Screen on the Hill (071-438 3368).

DEKALOG PARTS 8 AND 10 (12): The last two from Kieślowski's "Ten Commandments" cycle, a better tale about an impotent husband, and a very touching story about a young girl. Rankin (071-837 8462).

OTHER PEOPLE'S MONEY (15): A Wall Street greed (Danny DeVito) versus human decency (Gregory Peck). Muted comic versions on a familiar theme. Director: Norman Jewison. Cannon: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Shaftbury Avenue (071-836 8961) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Notting Hill Corner (071-727 0768) Whiteleys (071-732 3332).

SHAKING THE TREE (15): Tenuous story through the personal problems of four Chicago chums. With Amy Gross. Gail Heston, director. Cannon: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Shaftbury Avenue (071-836 8961) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Notting Hill Corner (071-727 0768) Whiteleys (071-732 3332).

TOTO THE HERO (15): Juany, abandoned comedy about youth and age and his disappointments from talented new Belgian director Jacques Van Dormael. With Michel Bouquet, Thomas Godier, Carsten Mayr (071-438 3368).

WHAT ABOUT BOB? (PG): Phoebe, mad Bart Murray drives psychiatrist Richard Dreyfuss close to the edge. Sweet, cozy comedy from Fox. Cannon: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Shaftbury Avenue (071-836 8961) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Notting Hill Corner (071-727 0768) Whiteleys (071-732 3332).

AT OUR TABLE (15): David Mamet play that quickly declines to name its subject. With John Goodman, Corinne Bailey (071-836 8961) Gate (071-727 4043) M (071-437 0767) Screen on the Hill (071-438 3368).

BECKET: Revolving performance from David, Jacob and Robert. With Amy Gross. Cannon: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Shaftbury Avenue (071-836 8961) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Notting Hill Corner (071-727 0768) Whiteleys (071-732 3332).

DEATH AND THE MAIDEN (15): Steven Spielberg. With Amy Gross. Cannon: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Shaftbury Avenue (071-836 8961) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Notting Hill Corner (071-727 0768) Whiteleys (071-732 3332).

DON'T DRESS FOR DINNER: Simon, Cuddie and a strange Frenchman. Cannon: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Shaftbury Avenue (071-836 8961) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Notting Hill Corner (071-727 0768) Whiteleys (071-732 3332).

THE DRAGONS' TRILOGY: Robert Leggo's a breathtakingly spectacular French-Canadian epic. Cannon: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Shaftbury Avenue (071-836 8961) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Notting Hill Corner (071-727 0768) Whiteleys (071-732 3332).

GOOD DOLLY MISS MOLLY: Cheerful trip through France and the lives of a young girl. Cannon: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Shaftbury Avenue (071-836 8961) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Notting Hill Corner (071-727 0768) Whiteleys (071-732 3332).

THE HUNTING OF THE SNARK: Good things in this "satirical" comedy. Cannon: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Shaftbury Avenue (071-836 8961) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Notting Hill Corner (071-727 0768) Whiteleys (071-732 3332).

IT'S RALPH: Comedy about a young boy. Cannon: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Shaftbury Avenue (071-836 8961) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Notting Hill Corner (071-727 0768) Whiteleys (071-732 3332).

JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT: A story of a young boy. Cannon: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Shaftbury Avenue (071-836 8961) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Notting Hill Corner (071-727 0768) Whiteleys (071-732 3332).

ENGLISH NATIONAL BALLET: John Cranko's comic version of Shakespeare's *Taming of the Shrew*. Cannon: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Shaftbury Avenue (071-836 8961) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Notting Hill Corner (071-727 0768) Whiteleys (071-732 3332).

SADAO WATANABE: As part of the Japan Festival, also exceptional Shogun. Cannon: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Shaftbury Avenue (071-836 8961) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Notting Hill Corner (071-727 0768) Whiteleys (071-732 3332).

GIL SCOTT-THOMPSON: The theatre of social-political issues. Cannon: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Shaftbury Avenue (071-836 8961) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Notting Hill Corner (071-727 0768) Whiteleys (071-732 3332).

ST PETERSBURG PHILHARMONIC: The Baroque's "Great Orchestras of the World". Cannon: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Shaftbury Avenue (071-836 8961) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Notting Hill Corner (071-727 0768) Whiteleys (071-732 3332).

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CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated) across the country.

CURRENT

◆ **BOYZ N THE HOOD** (15): Black urban drama from Neil LaBute. Director: John Singleton. With Laurence Fishburne, Cuba Gooding Jr. Cannon: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Shaftbury Avenue (071-836 8961) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Notting Hill Corner (071-727 0768) Whiteleys (071-732 3332).

◆ **THE COMMITMENTS** (15): Hard-boiled urban youngsters form a soul band. Fresh, funny and buoyantly played by a largely amateur cast. Director: Alan Parker. Cannon: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Shaftbury Avenue (071-836 8961) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Notting Hill Corner (071-727 0768) Whiteleys (071-732 3332).

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◆ **DON'T DRESS FOR DINNER**: Simon, Cuddie and a strange Frenchman. Cannon: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Shaftbury Avenue (071-836 8961) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Notting Hill Corner (071-727 0768) Whiteleys (071-732 3332).

◆ **THE DRAGONS' TRILOGY**: Robert Leggo's a breathtakingly spectacular French-Canadian epic. Cannon: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Shaftbury Avenue (071-836 8961) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Notting Hill Corner (071-727 0768) Whiteleys (071-732 3332).

◆ **GOOD DOLLY MISS MOLLY**: Cheerful trip through France and the lives of a young girl. Cannon: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Shaftbury Avenue (071-836 8961) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Notting Hill Corner (071-727 0768) Whiteleys (071-732 3332).

◆ **THE HUNTING OF THE SNARK**: Good things in this "satirical" comedy. Cannon: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Shaftbury Avenue (071-836 8961) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Notting Hill Corner (071-727 0768) Whiteleys (071-732 3332).

◆ **IT'S RALPH**: Comedy about a young boy. Cannon: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Shaftbury Avenue (071-836 8961) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Notting Hill Corner (071-727 0768) Whiteleys (071-732 3332).

◆ **JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT**: A story of a young boy. Cannon: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Shaftbury Avenue (071-836 8961) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Notting Hill Corner (071-727 0768) Whiteleys (071-732 3332).

◆ **ENGLISH NATIONAL BALLET**: John Cranko's comic version of Shakespeare's *Taming of the Shrew*. Cannon: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Shaftbury Avenue (071-836 8961) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Notting Hill Corner (071-727 0768) Whiteleys (071-732 3332).

◆ **SADAO WATANABE**: As part of the Japan Festival, also exceptional Shogun. Cannon: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Shaftbury Avenue (071-836 8961) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Notting Hill Corner (071-727 0768) Whiteleys (071-732 3332).

◆ **GIL SCOTT-THOMPSON**: The theatre of social-political issues. Cannon: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Shaftbury Avenue (071-836 8961) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Notting Hill Corner (071-727 0768) Whiteleys (071-732 3332).

◆ **ST PETERSBURG PHILHARMONIC**: The Baroque's "Great Orchestras of the World". Cannon: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Shaftbury Avenue (071-836 8961) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Notting Hill Corner (071-727 0768) Whiteleys (071-732 3332).

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THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of current theatre in London.

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◆ **THE DRAGONS' TRILOGY**: Robert Leggo's a

Drinkers cost firms '8m days a year'

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

BRITAIN loses between 8 million and 14 million working days a year as a result of drinking, according to the charity Alcohol Concern. Drinkers take four times as many days off work as other workers, and up to a quarter of accidents at work involve workers who have been drinking.

The figures, to be released today at the launch of a group intended to encourage the introduction of effective alcohol policies at workplaces, show that publicans are the job category at greatest risk. They are at least ten times more likely than the average for the country to die of cirrhosis of the liver. Airline pilots, air traffic controllers and ship's officers are another high-risk group, lying tenth in the table compiled by Alcohol Concern from census data from the Office of Population, Censuses and Surveys.

The table, which lists 32 occupations where the death rate is above the average, is designed to draw attention to the problem of drinking at work and the establishment of the Federation of Workplace Advisory Services. Its purpose, the charity says, will be to encourage the introduction of effective alcohol policies in offices and factories.

Alcohol Concern and the

magazine *Personnel Today* have conducted a survey of attitudes to drinking in 300 British companies. The survey shows that alcohol-related problems are widespread, with more than 60 per cent of employers saying that they cause poor performance and absenteeism, and over half saying that they are a factor in workplace injuries. The least likely to see a problem are smaller companies with less than 200 employees.

Most employers said that they were ready to ban drinking during working hours, but were less enthusiastic about the American practice of screening employees for drink-related problems. More than half were against it. Large companies and public sector organisations are more likely to have policies for encouraging employees to seek help. Disciplinary action or dismissal was less common.

Alcohol Concern say one in four men in Britain drink more than the medically recommended sensible limit of 21 units of alcohol a week, with 12 per cent drinking more than 35 units a week. Alcohol consumption per head has risen from 7.6 pints in 1960 to 13.3 pints in 1988. The charity estimates the overall cost of alcohol misuse at £2,000 million a year.



Full steam ahead: Jim MacKie, a volunteer train driver, preparing a 1903 saddle-tank shunting engine for a trip down the Lavender Line. The 1½ mile line near Uckfield, Sussex, which boasts two steam engines, authentic rolling stock and restored buildings dating from

1858, is to be auctioned in London on December 9, with a £550,000 starting price (Matthew d'Ancona writes). David Milham, its owner, has decided to sell the business after eight years in which he transformed the derelict site-into a tourist attraction. The station was opened in 1858, fell into disuse in the Thirties and was declared unsafe in 1969. Mr Milham, aged 52, bought it in 1983 and has since managed it with his family and 20 volunteers. In 1985, the Lavender Line was declared best restored station by the

Association of Railway Preservation Societies. Mr Milham said yesterday: "I wanted a yard for my landscaping business. It was a mess when I bought it, a rat-infested heap of rubble. But after eight or nine years of hard work, it seemed a good idea to turn it into a station again."

Ministers rule out backbench rebellion

Continued from page 1
in solving the problems of Croatia and for failing to "get together" over the Gulf war. She held up the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia as examples of artificially created states and added: "The lesson of the last century and of this is that groups of nations put together artificially will not have sufficient identity to stay together and they will collapse."

"To try and impose a new artificial unity upon Europe would be totally wrong and flying in the face of history." She described EC monetary union as a system by which "each state gives up to a very considerable measure of control over its own economy by having a single currency operated by a central bank not responsible to any democratic process."

Tory Euro-sceptics are meeting at the Commons today to seek to frame an amendment to the European debate calling for a referendum on the Maastricht terms. For Labour, Gerald Kaufman dismissed the idea, saying that a general election was sufficient test, while the government maintained its strong opposition to a referendum, arguing that such a stratagem was a strange way of defending the parliamentary sovereignty its advocates supported.

The internal Conservative arguments on European union were again rehearsed yesterday by two of Mrs Thatcher's former chancellors. Nigel Lawson told the BBC's *On the Record* programme: "It is impossible to conceive in a democratic context of there being a single currency for the whole of Europe and one single institution within the EC, the most powerful institution within the EC — far more powerful than any finance minister in a nation state — determining monetary policy, determining interest rates and all that unless you have the political counterpart of a single government."

However, Sir Geoffrey Howe argued that if the other EC members, with Britain's help, were able to achieve a single currency, "then it would make total sense for us to be part of it".

Labour will publish its own amendment for the Commons debate today. Labour will vote against the government motion on the grounds that the government has failed to negotiate constructively but only in the interests of Conservative party unity.

Towards Maastricht, page 9
Letters, page 17

Yeltsin takes over the Kremlin's assets

Continued from page 1

state on the international arena. In a disclosure that further undermined the economic power of the centre, the chairman of the union's audit commission told the *Trud* newspaper on Saturday that the Soviet state bank had no gold and was effectively bankrupt. While his remarks were interpreted in some quarters as meaning that the state was bankrupt, it is more likely that the gold is being held in the state vaults pending agreement between the republics on its division.

One of Mr Yeltsin's decrees, "on precious metals and gemstones", states that the whole process of mining, prospecting, production and marketing is under Russian control, and that Russia will set up a special committee to replace Soviet departments and committees concerned with gold and precious metals. It will also start talks with other

republics on the division of gold and diamond assets. In the other decrees and resolutions, Mr Yeltsin announced that Russia would in future authorise all printing of money on Russian territory, take over all property belonging to former central ministries on Russian territory, and cease all contributions to the central finance ministry on Wednesday. It has also suspended the issue of oil export licences, pending a review.

Further decrees abolished most restrictions on foreign trade, announced the start of talks with other republics on the future of Soviet trade representations abroad, and allowed the rate of the rouble to be determined by "supply and demand" throughout the Russian Federation, openly challenging the authority of the central bank.

Gorbachev speaks up, page 12
Leading article, page 17

RUSSIA'S ADVANCE TOWARDS ECONOMIC CONTROL

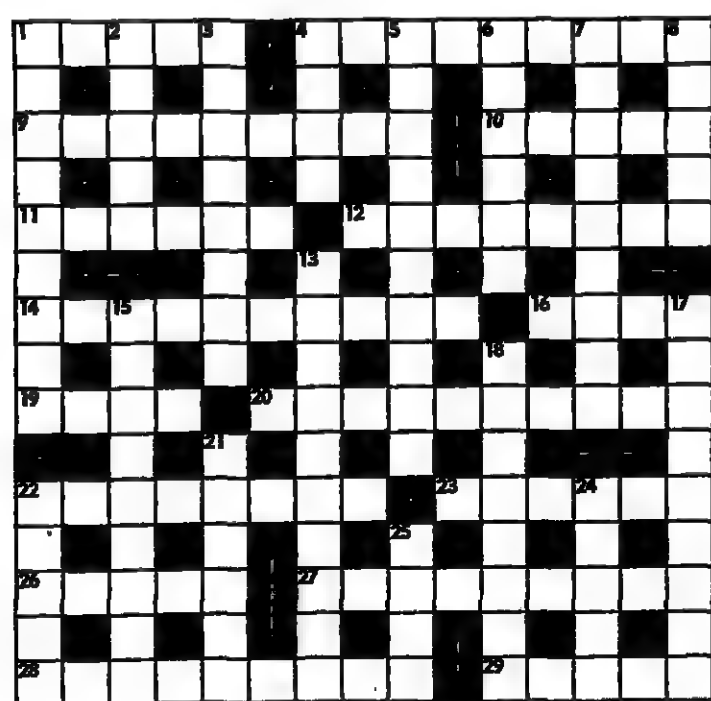
October 28: Yeltsin tells Russian Congress that he will lead Russia to economic reform and challenges other republics to join. Calls for 90 per cent cuts in central foreign ministry.
November 1: Congress gives Yeltsin powers to push through economic reform. Russia stops financing most central ministries.
November 4: Gorbachev's state council agrees central ministry cuts.
November 5: Central foreign economic bank said to be running out of money.
November 6: Yeltsin bans Communist Party throughout Russia.
November 7: Yeltsin announces senior Russian appointments and streamlined government structure.
November 8: Yeltsin decrees emergency in Chechno-Ingushetia (not observed).
November 11: Russian parliament rejects force in Chechno-Ingushetia.
November 12: Lower house of Soviet parliament refuses to approve extra credits for central government.
November 13: Disclosure that Yeltsin has gained joint control of gold reserves.
November 14: Yeltsin and other republics insist that new union will be "confederation" of sovereign states.
November 15: Yeltsin renounces responsibility for credits negotiated by centre. Russia suspends oil export licences, takes control of all gold and precious metal production in Russia.
November 16: Russia, Ukraine, Belorussia and Kazakhstan refuse to delegate responsibility to centre for negotiations with international finance organisations.
November 17: Yeltsin allows rouble to float, removes most foreign trade restrictions.
Economic power still with the centre includes the right to issue money.

Setback for Clarke plan

Continued from page 1
work in English, technology, modern languages and some science papers. He had told an all-party committee of MPs last week that he thought coursework could motivate children, test skills and discover things which traditional examinations failed to do.
Lord Griffiths has, for example, accepted the argument that the speaking and listening elements in GCSE English required under the national curriculum can only be judged by continuous assessment in the final year which would soak up the whole of the prime minister's 20 per cent. The final English coursework percentage is likely to be between 30 and 40 per cent. The changes will result in considerable changes for schools as half of this year's 650,000 English papers were based on 100 per cent coursework.

Education, page 29

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,766



- ACROSS
- 1 It makes many a debtor cringe (5)
 - 4 A beaver of note? (9)
 - 9 Cutting of rent ordered — to a song (9)
 - 10 There's very little conflict (5)
 - 11 Inflamed by some petition (6)
 - 12 Strike a schoolmaster as a lazybones (8)
 - 14 Fashion models deem this intrusive (10)
 - 16 Here is a pound note in addition (4)
 - 19 Blue flower from lake in a German retreat (4)
 - 20 Starting without hesitation and coming to grief (10)
 - 22 Hold a man in it — quite wrongly (8)
 - 23 A deep red desert (6)

PARKER DUOFOLD

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 18,765 will appear next Saturday. The 5 winners will receive a Duofold fountain pen supplied by Parker

- DOWN
- 1 He looks for growth potential in stock (9)
 - 2 One way to lie and twist (5)
 - 3 Bank taking in little cash of late (9)
 - 4 People trapping a medium (4)
 - 5 Community charge payment (10)
 - 6 An old officer colours... (6)
 - 7... seeing soldier capturing a coarse Italian patriot (9)
 - 8 Quick but quiet in attack (5)
 - 9 Surprised maybe not one's to be found in a store (10)
 - 15 Trifling figure to a syndicate (9)
 - 17 They'll have to stop playing (9)
 - 18 Hair-splitting pressman and social worker interrupting poet (8)
 - 21 No longer a revered figure in Argentina, the network's announced (6)
 - 22 Doctor an animal and then clean round (3,2)
 - 24 Work overtime providing musical entertainment (5)
 - 25 Blonde and beautiful (4)

Concise crossword, page 19

By Philip Howard

- STRIG
a. A trotting harness
b. An olive branch
c. To remove the stalk from
- VETTURA
a. Green vegetables
b. A carriage, cab, or car
c. Widened
- SAMFOO
a. Edible seaweed
b. Intoxicant
c. Chinese female trousers
- BRATICE
a. Purple salad lettuce
b. Cross-partnering
c. A wooden siege tower

Answers on page 20, column 1

AA ROADWATCH
For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE	731
C. London (within N & S Circles)	732
M-ways/roads M4-M1	733
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford	734
M-ways/roads Dartford-T-M23	735
M25 London Orbital only	736

National
National motorways 737
West Country 738
Wales 739
East Angles 740
East of England 741
North-west England 742
North-east England 743
Scotland 744
Northern Ireland 745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

* denotes Saturday's figures are latest available

For the latest regional forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0898 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Great Britain

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Great Britain

Wales will move north, turning to sleet and snow over the higher ground of the Pennines and Scotland. Further south, there will be showers, around the coasts at first but becoming widespread. Most parts will be quite windy with gales developing in the north and west giving some drifting over the Scottish hills. Outlook: rain; becoming cooler.

MIDWINTER: 10-15; 11-16; 12-17; 13-18; 14-19; 15-20; 16-21; 17-22; 18-23; 19-24; 20-25; 21-26; 22-27; 23-28; 24-29; 25-30; 26-31; 27-32; 28-33; 29-34; 30-35; 31-36; 32-37; 33-38; 34-39; 35-40; 36-41; 37-42; 38-43; 39-44; 40-45; 41-46; 42-47; 43-48; 44-49; 45-50; 46-51; 47-52; 48-53; 49-54; 50-55; 51-56; 52-57; 53-58; 54-59; 55-60; 56-61; 57-62; 58-63; 59-64; 60-65; 61-66; 62-67; 63-68; 64-69; 65-70; 66-71; 67-72; 68-73; 69-74; 70-75; 71-76; 72-77; 73-78; 74-79; 75-80; 76-81; 77-82; 78-83; 79-84; 80-85; 81-86; 82-87; 83-88; 84-89; 85-90; 86-91; 87-92; 88-93; 89-94; 90-95; 91-96; 92-97; 93-98; 94-99; 95-100; 96-101; 97-102; 98-103; 99-104; 100-105; 101-106; 102-107; 103-108; 104-109; 105-110; 106-111; 107-112; 108-113; 109-114; 110-115; 111-116; 112-117; 113-118; 114-119; 115-120; 116-121; 117-122; 118-123; 119-124; 120-125; 121-126; 122-127; 123-128; 124-129; 125-130; 126-131; 127-132; 128-133; 129-134; 130-135; 131-136; 132-137; 133-138; 134-139; 135-140; 136-141; 137-142; 138-143; 139-144; 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Bonds boost Savings

By Sara McConnell

INCOME bonds were the biggest money spinner for National Savings last month, bringing in a net £73.5 million from sales of £123.9 million. They none the less made a smaller net addition to government funds in the first seven months of this financial year than the rival index-linked savings certificates.

This year, income bonds have brought in a net addition of £401.4 million, while index-linked certificates have made £685.6 million. Over the same period last year, index-linked certificates brought in £815.5 million, and income bonds £601.1 million.

Index-linked savings certificates, fixed interest savings certificates and the investment account all made net additions to government fundings last month. The net addition from index-linked savings certificates was £62.4 million, after gross receipts of £107.9 million, while fixed-interest savings certificates brought in a gross of £144.2 million. After repayments of capital and accrued interest, the net addition to government funds was £32.4 million. The investment account contributed £47.8 million out of deposits of £97.2 million.

The Children's Bonus Bond brought in £17.5 million. Since its July launch, it has made a net addition of £68.7 million. Premium bonds brought in £10.9 million.

Schemes in which National Savings had to pay out more than the sum received included the Yearly Plan, the ordinary account and save-as-you-earn.

The total amount invested in National Savings at the end of October rose to £38.2 billion. Accrued interest was £156.3 million, of which £93.6 million was repaid, leaving a net addition of £62.7 million, to be included in the total.

Unions and firms expect 5-7% rises

By Ross Tremain, Industrial Correspondent

BRITISH employers and trade unions seem to have settled on 5-7 per cent as the "going rate" for this year's pay rises, says Incomes Data Services, the pay research group.

The wide range between pay settlements, which was common earlier this year, has narrowed. In a report published today, IDS says there have also been fewer pay freezes in recent months, and more long term deals.

The assessment from IDS, one of the most authoritative pay research groups, comes only days after Ford workers accepted a two-year pay deal which gives them a rise of just 5 per cent this year, their lowest increase for a decade.

The bunching of settlements and apparent willingness of both companies and employees to take an increasingly long-term view suggest that the recession has reached, or passed, its nadir.

It also indicates renewed confidence that inflation is likely to stay low for some time. In the year to October 15, according to Friday's figures, the retail prices index rose by just 3.7 per cent.

IDS says the renewed trend of two-year settlements is reminiscent of the period after the 1980-2 recession. In the past few years, uncertain inflationary pressures caused a return to one-year deals. Now, says IDS, "the requirements we saw as necessary for long term pay and conditions agreements would appear to be falling into place."

Companies are keen to avoid the disruption of annual pay negotiations, and to achieve deals which will allow them to plant labour costs accurately. They also want to create a framework within which extensive changes in responsibilities and conditions of employment can be negotiated, the IDS says.

Minimum wage 'must be defined'

By Our Industrial Correspondent

THE potential impact upon pay inflation of a national minimum wage far outweighs effects it may have on unemployment, says Sir Pat Lowry, former chairman of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas).

Annual increases in a national minimum wage could become a target for pay negotiators throughout industry, as skilled workers battle to maintain pay differentials, he argues. "For the economy as a whole, this would be a much more important consideration than the employment considerations," he writes in *PM Plus*, the Institute of Personnel Management magazine.

Sir Pat's assessment, suggests that attacks by Michael Howard, the employment minister, on Labour's proposals for a national minimum wage are misdirected. Despite claims that a national minimum wage would cause a sharp rise in unemployment, Mr Howard has failed to carry the argument. Labour is convinced its proposal is a vote winner. Evidence from France and Italy suggests the impact on employment of a minimum wage set at the level proposed by Labour would be modest.

Sir Pat says it is very difficult to quantify the impact of a minimum wage unless it is more precisely defined. The most crucial clarification, he argues, is whether the minimum would define basic pay, or whether it could include performance payments, shift premiums, and anti-social hours payments.

In a debate on competition, France and Italy will claim that Sir Leon is unfair towards their state sectors, the largest and most heavily subsidised in the EC. They will argue that the De Havilland case, which pitted Sir Leon against the state-controlled Aerospaciale and Alenia, is just the latest example of how the competition commissioner's policies weaken EC industry.

But Sir Leon will have the full backing of the Community's free-marketters, with Britain set to give its support to the commission's new annual surveillance of state-controlled companies' accounts.



Talked down: Sir John Egan agreed a compromise to the CAA pricing proposals

Pressure on BAA to reduce airline charges

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

BAA will today be ordered to cut the cost of landing and parking aircraft at its three main airports under the Civil Aviation Authority's revised charging formula.

BAA, formerly the British Airports Authority, has been battling with the CAA over its proposal to impose a cut of 8 percentage points below the rate of inflation each year for the next five years. This, said BAA, would have forced the group, of which Sir John Egan is chief executive, to abandon such cherished plans as the Paddington to Heathrow rail link and Heathrow's fifth terminal. An initial compromise, enabling BAA to raise charges as they began to spend the money on these projects, was rejected by BAA on the ground that it would deprive airlines of long-term price stability.

After detailed talks, the CAA has toned down its demands and will today tell BAA that it must still cut its landing charges, but less severely.

Airlines pay £4,791 to land a Boeing 747 loaded with 265 passengers and park it for four hours at Heathrow, with smaller aircraft paying proportionately less. The charges, which were less than 40 per cent of BAA's income, raised £327.3 million last year. For the next five years, such revenue will gradually form a smaller proportion of BAA's total income, forcing the group to rely on increasing turnover from shopping and other commercial operations.

Airlines have largely supported BAA in its battle with the CAA, and most would happily pay more if the improvement to services they say is desperately needed could go ahead. The CAA, however, says BAA, as a near monopoly, should achieve a rate of return on investment of only 7 per cent. BAA considers this to be grossly inadequate because it needs to spend well over £1 billion in new projects if it is to keep up with the expected growth in demand for air travel.

The new deal with the CAA means that BAA can proceed with the Heathrow to Paddington rail link. Terminal five is one step nearer, although it has not been formally approved, largely because of the continuing wrangle over who should pay for road improvements. Ironically, the squeeze on

BAA charges comes at a time when the CAA is finalising plans to raise charges to airlines to meet its own investment plans. Price rises of at least 20 per cent are to be announced by the CAA next spring. These will cover the whole range of CAA activities, from the licensing of pilots to on route navigation charges and aerodrome fees. The CAA does not have to refer its increased charges to any outside body, although it needs government approval to borrow money. The CAA maintains that, as a state-owned body, it does not make a profit and has to recover the cost of providing better air traffic control services directly from customers. It is an argument BAA also used in its discussions with the CAA, with only partial success.

Attwoods director targeted

By Martin Barrow

ATTWOODS, the waste management company, is believed to be reviewing the position of its finance director after a heavily discounted £80 million rights issue.

Stuart Lee, who joined from Plesman, a year ago, has borne much of the responsibility for Attwoods's difficulties, which came to a head after bankers refused to roll over a £29 million loan.

The company was forced last month to review its 9-fer-25 rights issue after institutions refused to support it. The new shares were offered at 160p each, against 175p in the market. Questions are now being raised about the role of Mr Lee, who arranged short-term loans for long-term acquisitions.

By end September, borrowings were £125 million, with £29 million due immediately, after refinancing efforts proved unsuccessful.

In April, Attwoods tried to raise £80 million via a American placing, but raised just \$12.5 million. Recently a \$150 million American placement and £100 million British revolving credit facility were aborted. Efforts to approve the rights issue.

Rough ride for Brittan

From Tom Walker in Brussels

SIR Leon Brittan faces a rough ride in today's European Community industry council, with the De Havilland affair likely to surface again.

In a debate on competition, France and Italy will claim that Sir Leon is unfair towards their state sectors, the largest and most heavily subsidised in the EC. They will argue that the De Havilland case, which pitted Sir Leon against the state-controlled Aerospaciale and Alenia, is just the latest example of how the competition commissioner's policies weaken EC industry.

But Sir Leon will have the full backing of the Community's free-marketters, with Britain set to give its support to the commission's new annual surveillance of state-controlled companies' accounts.

"We take the opposite view to France and Italy," said a British official. "We support transparency in the sector, and we believe that Sir Leon acts even-handedly. He inflicts his misery on companies equally across the Community."

The industry council has never quite established itself on the Brussels political calendar, while it invariably comprises weighty topics from biotechnology to support for the coal and steel industry, most of its thunder is stolen by other councils. Finance ministers make all the big macro-economic decisions and internal market ministers tend to do the industrial finetuning, which leaves the industry council itself laying down vague statements of policy that have little clout. "It can be a bit of a non-council," said one commission source.

As it is now widely recognised that the EC's industrial policy should be non-interventionist, the meetings tend to disintegrate into a majority of countries happy with the status quo and a disgruntled France and Italy, wanting the council to be more dirigiste but with little chance of swaying the debate.

Thus today ministers will call for more effective international trade rules in consumer electronics, and a speedier transition to common standards in the sector, without proposing to spend any money on it. "We believe EC industrial policy should be about getting the environment right, but no more than that," said a British official.

CAPITAL MARKETS

Non-gilt sterling issues booming

AS SHOCKS to the capital markets go, this summer's Moscow coup ranks a poor second to the invasion of Kuwait a year previously, at least as far as the sterling markets are concerned. Figures in the latest Bank of England *Quarterly Bulletin* show sterling issues continuing at high levels during the third quarter.

Despite a moderate easing from earlier in the year, new fixed-rate non-gilt sterling issues still totalled £4 billion. The contrast with the comparable periods in 1990 is sharp. Between the end of the second quarter last year and the end of the third, issues of fixed-rate sterling debt more than halved to £887 million, while floating-rate issue levels fell even further, from £2.3 billion to £930 million. The total value of all non-gilt sterling issues during that period was just over £2 billion, a figure almost matched in September alone this year.

Perhaps the surprising thing is not that activity fell as far as it did last year but that there were any issues at all in one of the most unsettled periods in recent history.

In general, 1991 has been remarkable for the massive amounts of new capital raised in the sterling markets. In both debt and equity, 1990's totals have already been surpassed as companies have continued to unburden their balance sheets of the banks' debt mountain built up in the Eighties. Naturally, with the stock market in its recent perky mood, equities have dominated. Equity raised by

UK issuers (excluding privatisations) already totals £10.75 billion, twice the sum for the whole of last year. Fixed-rate issues have lagged behind, but at £6.3 billion, they also significantly exceed the 12-month figure for 1990.

On the non-sterling markets too, British issuers have been active. Foreign currency bond issues by UK private sector borrowers totalled \$3.8 billion in the third quarter, up from \$3.3 billion for the previous three-month period.

The international syndicated loan markets had another quiet quarter, with new credits totalling just \$29 billion, including \$1 billion for Kuwait alone. The banking sector, still under pressure over capital adequacy, remains highly sensitive to credit quality, and has significantly reduced the credit available. This has pushed pricing up to some degree, although a table in the bulletin shows that it is still far short of the levels of the Seventies and early Eighties. Average margins on syndicated credits to UK companies fell for a decade before bottoming at about 20 basis points in 1988.

No wonder companies were eager to take advantage of the bargain basement offers available. And how some of them have regretted it since. Again, it was the Kuwait invasion that provided the biggest shock to the system. It caused a collapse in the Tokyo stock market that devastated Japanese banks' balance sheets, triggering widespread withdrawal from overseas lending.

JONATHAN PRYNN

GILT-EDGED

Why end of recession does not signal recovery

THE recession is over. Or so the Chancellor will be able to declare when this week's real GDP data show the first quarterly increase after four consecutive quarters of decline.

Of course, this does not necessarily imply that recovery is under way, as the Bank of England would have us believe in its latest assessment of economic conditions. Most, if not all, of the increase in third-quarter real GDP will reflect the recovery in North Sea oil production from depressed levels during the summer. On-shore economic activity is likely to be flat, with sectors such as construction and engineering still depressed.

But, of course, these are all backward-looking indicators and in the eyes of those advocating the notion of recovery, should be ignored in favour of forward-looking indicators, such as the proliferating surveys of business and consumer confidence.

These measures of confidence have, in the main, recovered sharply from the very depressed levels registered earlier this year. They suggest the worst of the

recession (as measured in terms of year-on-year declines in real GDP) was over by the second quarter.

Since then, in my opinion, the economy has simply moved sideways. The danger, at this juncture, is a divergence between expectation and reality. Improving confidence does not necessarily mean a commensurate and immediate recovery in output and demand. Indeed, the CBI's industrial trends surveys for April and July showed that actual output and demand over the relevant four-month period turned out to be much lower than manufacturers anticipated.

In the October survey, manufacturers were reported by the CBI to be expecting "stable or slightly rising output" over the next four months. The odds of this happening may be undermined, however, by the CBI's additional finding of "a further rundown in stocks".

Either way, the outlook for the real economy could well be a lot bleaker than the authorities would care to admit. In this regard, the experience of other countries such as America, Canada and Australia (which are attempting to make the

transition from recession to recovery) is none too promising.

The inability of these economies to achieve significant lift-off in activity appears to be mainly attributable to the large levels of outstanding debt in the corporate, household and financial sectors. While the relationship between the build-up of debt pre-recession is not systematically related to post-recession spending, it does appear that in the present situation, both corporates and households are unwilling to resume borrowing to any significant extent. In Britain, this implies there will be little appetite for spending on more expensive durable goods or fixed investment.

Both employment and real income prospects remain uncertain. This is especially the case if the Treasury's forecast of 6 per cent growth in exports next year fails to materialise. The chances of this happening are high, bearing in mind that 53 per cent of British exports go to the EC.

With the German economy expected to slow down sharply because of higher interest rates and in-

creased taxation, the demand for British exports will likely fade. For America, which accounts for 12 per cent of British exports, the risk of a "double-dip" recession is still acute, given that a large part of third-quarter growth reflected more moderate destocking rather than any genuine increase in demand.

Against this background, the bright spot for the economy is the prospect of lower inflation and a significant transformation of inflation expectations. However, the prospect of reverting to the low levels of inflation seen in the Fifties and Sixties is contingent on developments in the labour market. It is not clear that wage bargainers have incorporated into their thinking the discipline generated by ERM membership. Thus there may be a repeat of the situation in 1986 when retail price inflation dropped to 2.4 per cent although underlying average earnings growth failed to fall below 7.5 per cent. In the ERM, this means downward pressure on the exchange rate or increasing unemployment — or both.

It is not surprising, therefore, that the Bank gives warning that achiev-

ing lower inflation will require "consistent application of counter-inflationary policies". Translated this means a relatively high level of interest rates for some time.

The autumn statement spending announcements, which shift the fiscal stance into expansionary mode, imply counter-inflation measures will have to be again applied from the monetary end. This type of mix — a tight monetary and looser fiscal policy — is in principle good for the exchange rate. As yet this is not reflected in sterling's position in the ERM.

Political uncertainty and the potential for a Conservative party rift over EMU will keep international investors on the sidelines for the time being. For the gilt market, where funding prospects are also helping to cap any lingering enthusiasm, the near-term outlook is cautious, although the likelihood of a pronounced slide in gilt prices is low. Let's hope the light at the end of the tunnel is not simply the Chancellor holding a torch.

NEIL MACKINNON
Yamaichi

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Who really wants Britain to come top of the anti-inflationary league?

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97	Compass	Leisure	1.00
98	Compass	Leisure	1.00
99	Compass	Leisure	1.00
100	Compass	Leisure	1.00

Please take into account any extra signs

Weekly Dividend	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00

Two readers share the £4,000 weekly Portfolio Platinum prize. They are Janet Maclean, of Oxford, and Arthur Hall, of Chelmsford, Essex.

Company	Price	Wkly	Net	%	P/E
1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00
7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00
8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00
9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00
10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
11.00	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.00
12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00
13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00
14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00
15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00
16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00
17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00
18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00
19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00
20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00
21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00
22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00
23.00	23.00	23.00	23.00	23.00	23.00
24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00
25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00
26.00	26.00	26.00	26.00	26.00	26.00
27.00	27.00	27.00	27.00	27.00	27.00
28.00	28.00	28.00	28.00	28.00	28.00
29.00	29.00	29.00	29.00	29.00	29.00
30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00
31.00	31.00	31.00	31.00	31.00	31.00
32.00	32.00	32.00	32.00	32.00	32.00
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36.00	36.00	36.00	36.00	36.00	36.00
37.00	37.00	37.00	37.00	37.00	37.00
38.00	38.00	38.00	38.00	38.00	38.00
39.00	39.00	39.00	39.00	39.00	39.00
40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
41.00	41.00	41.00	41.00	41.00	41.00
42.00	42.00	42.00	42.00	42.00	42.00
43.00	43.00	43.00	43.00	43.00	43.00
44.00	44.00	44.00	44.00	44.00	44.00
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46.00	46.00	46.00	46.00	46.00	46.00
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BREWERIES					
325.30	Alto-Jones	810	-2	18.8	41 13.5
182.40	Beck's	884	-1	8.4	48 11.9
107.00	Budweiser	989	-1	8.3	42 11.9
107.00	Budweiser	989	-1	8.3	42 11.9
170.00	Budweiser	1070	-1	8.2	52 9.3
170.00	Budweiser	1070	-1	8.2	52 9.3
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170.00	Budweiser	1070	-1	8.2	52 9.3
170.00	Budweiser	1070	-1	8.2	52 9.3
170.00	Budweiser	1070	-1	8.2	52 9.3

REPORTING THIS WEEK

Eagle Star losses continue to prey on BAT

YET another troubled reporting season from the insurance sector continues this week. BAT Industries is expected to announce a further £50 million of mortgage guarantee losses at Eagle Star tomorrow, making £170 million for the nine months to end-September.

Other insurance profits are likely to be well up, however, and a further bonus will be provided in the predicted £245-million swing in unrealised gains. UBS Phillips & Drew forecasts third-quarter pre-tax profits for BAT of £288 million (£36 million).

The following day, Commercial Union is expected to report relatively modest pre-tax losses of £25 million (£27.2 million profit) for the nine months. The company has little exposure to mortgage indemnity business and third-quarter losses may be only £5 million.

A move to the more conservative accounting policy that was adopted by Royal Insurance last week could lift this to £20 million. The end-September solvency margin will be about 50 per cent, says County NatWest, and the net asset value is forecast at 487p a share.

TODAY

Associated British Foods, the sugar and bread group of which Garry Weston is chairman, will report pre-tax profits for the 12 months to end-September up 8 per cent to

£330 million, according to the food manufacturing team at Smith New Court.

Despite the expected contribution from British Sugar, fears remain, notably for milling and baking, where margins have been under pressure. A final dividend of 4p would make 12.5p for the year.

The interim results from BAA are expected to fall 15 or 20 per cent to between £160 million and £175 million.

Bob Carpenter, at Kleinwort Benson, is planning for interim pre-tax profits of £72 million from BET. The dividend is expected to be unchanged at 4.25p. The sharp downturn in plant services should be partly offset by lower interest charges.

SG Warburg Group's interim figures should show a healthy improvement to £84 million. Little good news is likely, however, from Sedgwick Group, the insurance broker, according to Simon Willis at County NatWest. Three-quarter pre-tax profits are estimated at £74 million, down 6 per cent.

Interims: BAA, Babcock International Group, BET, British Investment Trust, Chamberlain & Hill, Danks Business Systems, Dunhill Holdings, Ensign, Mercury Asset Management, Odey & Butler Group, Sedgwick Group (third quarter), Stratton Investment Trust, Warburg (SG).

Finals: Anglo Irish Bank Corp, Associated British Foods, Diploma, F&C Eurotrust, Glasgow Income Trust. Economic statistics: CBI survey of distributive trades (October), (100th

survey); retail sales (October - provisional); public sector borrowing requirement (October).

TOMORROW

Anglian Water is expected to unveil a 10 per cent increase in the interim dividend to 19.25p for the six months to end-September. Pre-tax profits could reach £98 million, up from £84 million, on margins above the industry average.

High fish prices will cost Hazlewood Foods about £1.5 million in the first half year, according to Smith New Court. Pre-tax profits are estimated at £23 million.

Thera EMH's pre-tax profits will probably be slightly down on last year at about £90 million because of rationalisation costs and flat demand. The interim dividend is expected to be held at 9p.

Interims: Anglian Water, BAT Industries (third quarter), Bio-Isolates (Holdings), Casket, CMI, Micro Systems, Fleming, High Income Investment Trust, Goldsmiths Group, Govett American Endeavour Fund, Hazlewood Foods, Readicut International, River & Mercantile Geared Capital and Income Trust, Thorn EMH, Volex Group, Young & Co's Brewery.

Finals: Cosalt, Huntingdon International Holdings. Economic statistics: Gross domestic product (output-based) (third quarter - preliminary); manufac-

turers' and distributors' stocks (third quarter - provisional).

WEDNESDAY

Pre-tax profits at Banks Hovis McDougall are likely to be about 12 per cent up on last year at about £150 million. Milling and baking, where there is over-capacity, remains a problem.

Other divisions are trading satisfactorily and an interest contribution will boost the bottom line. The final dividend is estimated at 9.43p, making 13.25p, up 4 per cent.

Courtaulds will produce interim pre-tax profits of £90 million (£87.1 million), according to the chemicals team at Smith New Court. An increase in the dividend from 3.4p to 3.6p is predicted.

Whitbread starts the interim reporting season for the big brewers with figures expected to show a fall to between £130 million and £142.5 million.

Interims: Asda AB, Commercial Union (third quarter), Courtaulds, Forward Group, Foster (John) & Son, Hoskins Brewery, Parkland Textiles (Holdings), Scantronic Holdings, Thomson Corp (third quarter), Vespene Thornycroft Holdings, Wagon Industrial Holdings, Whitbread, Willis Cotton Group (third quarter), York Waterworks.

Finals: Fulcrum Investment Trust, Rankin Hovis McDougall, Shari Group, Strategem Group. Economic statistics: Construction - new orders (September - provisionally); major British banking groups' monthly statement (October); provisional estimates of monetary aggregates (October).

THURSDAY

British Gas's interims for the six months to end-September will, as usual, provide little guide to the full year. County NatWest is putting down a marker of £100 million (£36 million).

Interims: Black Arrow Group, British Gas, Chloride Group, Hogg Robinson, Locker (Thomas) Holdings, London International Group, Lowndes Lambert Group Holdings, Property Partnerships, River and Mercantile Trust, Rothmans International, Storehouse. Final: Barrett (Henry) Group, Ferry Pickering Group, Morland & Co, National Australia Bank.

Economic statistics: New earnings survey, 1991, Part E. Results for regions, counties and age groups.

FRIDAY

Interims: Bulgin (AF) & Co, Essae AB (third quarter), Foreign & Colonial German Investment Trust, Worn Investment Trust. Final: McCarthy & Stone, Willis Group. Economic statistics: Balance of payments, current account and overseas trade figures (October).

JONATHAN PRYNN



Sweet news: Sugar is expected to help raise profits at Garry Weston's AB Foods

N Brown acquires Odhams for £1m

By ANGELA MACKAY

N BROWN, the specialist home shopping company, has paid £1 million for the business and assets of Odhams Leisure Group, the distributor of Bullworker, the home exercise machine, and Postman Pat books.

Odhams, which passed into

receivership earlier this year, is a direct mail company which produced turnover of £8 million in 1990 and still boasts more than 200,000 active customers. The company also sells videos, compact discs, knitting patterns and a range of health products.

Jim Martin, managing director of N Brown, said Odhams was "highly complementary to our core home shopping business".

He plans to inject management and cash, and increase the business by offering its products to N Brown's customers. N Brown considers there is a lot of untapped potential in Odhams, particularly in the continuity clubs for videos and compact discs. At one stage before the business was run-down, Odhams had turnover of about £14 million.



Martin: injection of cash

SMALLER COMPANIES

EMH has easy ride on Palmer's record

RICHARD Palmer is the car executive who introduced British motorists to the beloved Lada and sold them by the thousands. He also built up Western Motor Holdings from 230p a share on flotation in 1987 to 100p three years later when Tozer Kemsley & Milbourn made a recommended offer.

Now he is in the driving seat at European Motor Holdings, formerly Cargo Control, into which he reversed his third market vehicle, Automobiles of Distinction, last year.

Several months were spent tidying up Cargo Control, whose interests spanned motor components, load restraint equipment and packaging. The process proved more painful than expected, as reflected in results for the 15 months to end-March showing pre-tax losses of £2.7 million, including exceptional charges of £1.75 million.

KPMG Peat Marwick, the company's auditors, have resigned and are contesting a claim by EMH for compensation by Cargo Control.

Meanwhile, EMH gave the first indication of its true ambition with the £7.1 million purchase of nine car dealerships from Thomas Robinson, the engineering company, funded via a £9.5 million share placing. The deal was

accompanied by a £2.4 million rights issue as part of a capital reconstruction.

The dealerships acquired from Thomas Robinson had sales of £51.68 million last year, generated by 13 franchises, including Volkswagen, Audi, BMW, Renault and Ford, located in market towns.

Operating profits held steady at £1.4 million in 1989 and 1990, despite the depressed car market, and Mr Palmer believes returns can be substantially improved through better cash management.

The business was acquired at a discount to net assets of £7.8 million, reflecting the weak market for dealerships.

EMH is likely to take further advantage of the lower exit multiples now being accepted to expand its dealership network but may also be looking for other activities related to the motor sector.

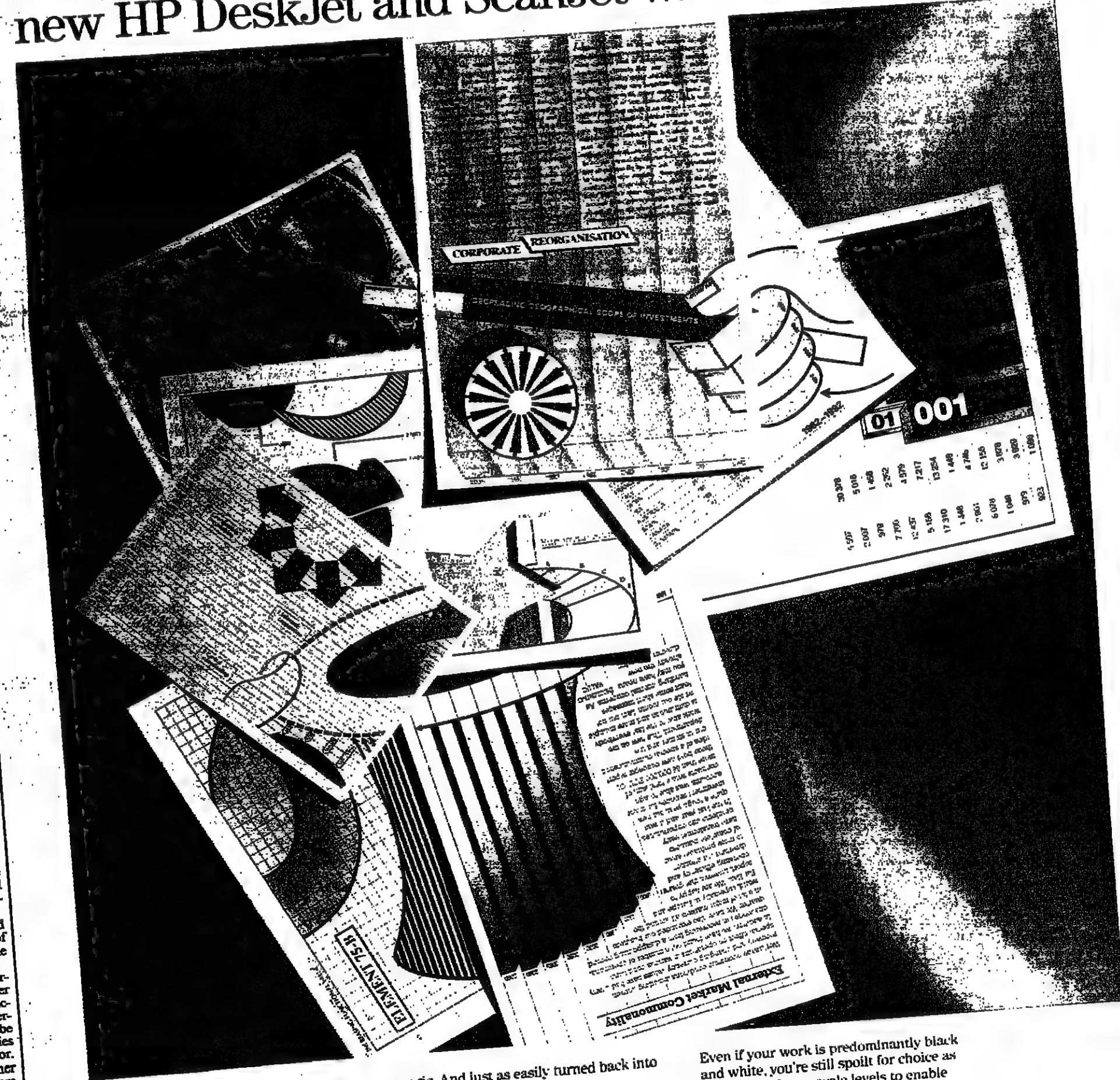
Conversely, some former Cargo Control businesses are likely to be sold.

The response to the fund raising suggests that the City focused on Mr Palmer's record rather than Cargo Control's uninspiring performance.

Those who did well out of Western Motor Holdings will watch EMH with interest.

MARTIN BARROW

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Court of Appeal

Law Report November 18 1991

Family Division

Privilege conflict with disclosure

A. T. & T. Istel Ltd and Another v Tully and Others
Before Lord Donaldson of Lynton, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Neill and Lord Justice Butler-Sloss
[Judgment November 12]

A condition attached to a disclosure order in a fraud action prohibiting the use of any of the disclosed material in criminal proceedings was not effective to protect defendants who were entitled to invoke the privilege against self-incrimination and could not therefore be used as a substitute for that privilege.

The Court of Appeal so stated dismissing the appeal of A. T. & T. Istel Ltd from Mr Justice Wright who on the application of the defendants, Mr and Mrs Tully, had set aside paragraphs of an injunction granted *ex parte* by Mr Justice Buckley requiring them (a) to disclose all documents in their possession or control relating to certain money referred to in a schedule and all sums representing or derived from those moneys and (b) to exhibit copies of all documents relating to the receipt or transfer of or dealing with all such assets, in particular such documents as were referred to by a schedule.

The order further provided that disclosure made in compliance with such paragraphs could not be used as evidence in the prosecution of an offence alleged to have been committed by the person required to make the disclosure or any spouse of that person.

Mr Michael Tugendhat, QC and Mr Richard Spearman for the plaintiffs; Mr Jeremy Gibbons for the defendants.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that the second plaintiff company, then controlled by Mr and Mrs Tully, had entered into a contract with a health authority to provide

computer services. The first plaintiff had bought its entire shareholding and subsequently learned of allegations that the contract with the health authority had been operated fraudulently. Although one had been charged with any offence, the matter was under a major police investigation.

The plaintiffs had contended that the effect of the condition reduced the risk of self-incrimination in such a level that the court could properly ignore it.

However, the judge had set aside the paragraphs of the order with great reluctance on the ground that no civil court could bind a criminal court as to what evidence was admissible in criminal proceedings (see *Rank Film Distributors Ltd v Video Information Centre* [1982] AC 380); and that to make the order in that form would deprive the defendants of an absolute right.

Mr Tugendhat on the appeal had accepted the all-embracing scope of the ancient common law privilege against self-incrimination, relying on *In re O'Connell* [1991] 2 WLR 475 and *Attorney-General v Times Newspapers Ltd* [1991] 2 WLR 994, submitted that the condition was effective.

His Lordship recognised the force of that argument, but it could not be accepted by the Court of Appeal: see *Rank*.

The making of a restraint order in the request of the prosecutor under section 77 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 was a special case where although technically civil, the proceedings were intrinsically bound up with criminal proceedings. The problem of third parties making use of the information would not arise and the disclosed information would be used in the criminal proceedings and then only if a

conviction had been obtained. The decision in *In re O'Connell* did not avail the plaintiffs unless the operative effect of the condition could be extended to all potential prosecutors by means of the route adopted in *Attorney-General v Times Newspapers Ltd*.

His Lordship did not think that the House of Lords in that case had in mind the special position in the administration of justice of the DPP and the CPS or would have been prepared to extend the effect of the orders of a civil court in such a way as indirectly to bind them in the performance of their duties in relation to the criminal law and before the criminal courts.

If the argument were soundly based it was, moreover, difficult to see why Parliament had needed to enact section 31 of the Theft Act 1968 or section 72 of the Supreme Court Act 1981. Mr Tugendhat had advanced a second argument, namely that the documents being proprietary, and the defendants being constructive trustees for the plaintiffs of the moneys claimed, a claim for privilege could not be raised against an order permitting a plaintiff to search and seize his own property, that the same principle should apply to an order for delivery up of such property and that such an order was not for discovery so that the authorities relating to discovery did not apply.

He had asserted that the documents sought by the order were trust documents since they showed the state of the trust, and that beneficiaries of the trust were entitled to production as a matter of property not discovery.

Rejecting that argument, his Lordship considered that the

fallacy which flawed it was in asserting that the relevant paragraphs constituted a proprietary remedy. It was an order calling for information and for copies of documents. That was an order for discovery which the defendants were entitled to disregard in so far as compliance might incriminate them.

His Lordship also rejected Mr Tugendhat's argument that the disclosure sought came within section 72 of the 1981 Act which removed the privilege against self-incrimination in circumstances set out in section 72(2). If section 72 were to avail the plaintiffs they would have to bring proceedings to obtain disclosure of information relating to an infringement of rights pertaining to commercial information.

In fact they were seeking information relating to alleged breaches of quite different rights, namely to damages for fraud or breach of trust in the respects alleged in the statement of claim.

Lordship shared Mr Justice Wright's reluctance in setting aside the paragraphs, but that course was inescapable. He again echoed the plea of Sir Nicolas Browne-Wilkinson that Parliament should consider extending the provisions of section 31(1) of the 1968 Act to other offences which might be committed by a person in the course of a business or profession, such as *Societate Nationala de Construcții de Beton v U.E.E. v Lundgren* [1991] 2 WLR 380, 393 and *Tate Access Floors Inc v Bowell* [1991] 2 WLR 319.

He would dismiss the appeal.

Lord Justice Neill delivered a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Butler-Sloss agreed.

Solicitors: Taylor Joynton Garrett, Dutton Gregory & Williams, Eastleigh.

Poll tax liability of USAF wives

Cherwell District Council and Another v Oxfordshire Valuation and Community Charge Tribunal and Others
Before Mr Justice Hodgson
[Judgment November 8]

A British citizen residing in the United Kingdom, who was married to a visiting serviceman and was therefore dependent upon him, was not exempt from the personal community charge as she did not have a "relevant association" with a visiting force "with the meaning of section 12 of the Visiting Forces Act 1952."

Mr Justice Hodgson so held in a reserved judgment in the Queen's Bench Division when allowing the appeal of Cherwell District Council against the decision of the Oxfordshire Valuation and Community Charge Tribunal to allow appeals under section 23 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, of British wives of United States Air Force personnel serving in this country on the basis of their names in the register as liable to pay the personal community charge. The tribunal had ordered that the entries be set aside or revoked.

Paragraph 2 of Schedule 1 to the 1988 Act provides: "(1) A person is an exempt individual ... if ... he has a relevant association with a visiting force."

Mr Harry Sales for the council; the community charge tribunal did not appear and was not represented; Mr Timothy Straker for the wives.

MR JUSTICE HODGSON said that the key point on the construction of section 12 of the 1952 Act, for the purposes of exemption from the community charge in the 1988 Act the draftsman used the concept of "relevant association".

"Relevant association" appeared in two sections of the 1952 Act. In section 3 the

concept was used to describe certain victims of offences committed by members of visiting forces. In section 7(1) the concept was used to describe certain dead persons upon whose bodies a coroner was prohibited from holding an inquest. Persons having a relevant association were defined in section 12(2), (3) and (4).

The debate had been as to the meaning of section 12(2)(b), in particular the somewhat peculiarly drafted exception clause "not being a citizen of the United Kingdom or Colonies or ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom, but being a dependent."

In section 12(2) persons were divided into two: members in (a) and dependants in (b). It was the dependants who were not victims or potential corpses who had to pay the tax.

The construction of section 12(2)(b) was not its natural meaning seemed to his Lordship to demand that the words "not being" controlled both the phrases "a citizen of the United Kingdom" and "ordinarily resident" so that its meaning became clear if one inserted "not being" a second time: "... a person not being a citizen ... or (not being) ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom but being a dependant ...".

The appeal succeeded and the names of the second respondents had to be restored to the register.

It was regrettable that the draftsman was unable or unwilling to provide in simple language in the 1988 Act that United Kingdom citizens residing in the United Kingdom and dependent upon the visiting serviceman should not be exempt from poll tax liability.

Solicitors: Sharpe Pritchard for Mr Walter Hum, Banbury; Linnels, Bicester.

Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce v Bello and Others
Before Lord Justice Dillon, Lord Justice Ralph Gibson and Lord Justice Staughton
[Judgment November 8]

An arrangement whereby a husband and wife carried out works of refurbishment on a property was permitted to take over the property and use it as he liked until the owner of the property paid for the works, created a tenancy in favour of the builder despite the uncertainty of the term.

The Court of Appeal so held when allowing an appeal by the builder, Richard J. Morgan, from an order for possession of a house at 85 Ashburnham Road, Kensal Rise, Willesden, London, made, in proceedings by the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce against Mr and Mrs Bello, the owner of the house, Mr Morgan, L. Rusoff and Kadja Vike by Judge Paul Baker, QC, sitting as a judge of the Chancery Division, on June 27.

Mr James Dingemans for Mr Morgan; Miss Mary Cook for the bank.

LORD JUSTICE DILLON said that the bank had a charging order on the house in respect of indebtedness by Mr Bello and wished to sell it. The question was whether Mr Morgan had an overriding interest under the Land Registration Act 1925. One issue was whether Mr Morgan had a tenancy of the house.

Mr Morgan had agreed to carry out refurbishment works and had begun to do so. After promises of progress payments had not been met, he had been told by Mr Bello's agent that he could take over the property and use it as he liked until (Mr Bello) had paid him in full for his works.

The arrangement so made could thus be terminated either by Mr Morgan if, having moved

in, he wished at any point to leave, or by Mr Bello if he paid for the works.

Mr Morgan had completed the refurbishment of the property, moved in in August 1988, and lived there ever since. He had not seen Mr Bello or the agent since June 1988.

The judge said that there was "certainly not a tenancy as there is no term certain", but he was not satisfied that there was a tenancy. The Official Receiver subsequently brought proceedings under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 against Mr Morgan and Mr Bello, two of whom were Mr Dobson and Mr Woodward.

In the course of those proceedings the deputy official receiver submitted a report to the High Court on August 28, 1991.

The first issue was which rules governed the inspection of documents on the court file relating to proceedings under

the *Prudential Assurance Co Ltd v London Residual Body* (The Times November 7) the Court of Appeal had found difficulty in reconciling *Ashburn v Luce v Chandler* [1984] KB 581, which was held that a purported tenancy for the duration of the war was not a tenancy because of the uncertainty of the term.

However, the court had found a ground of distinction, albeit one which it stated to be not satisfactory, between the order in *Ashburn* and *Prudential*, in that in the former, unlike the latter, the term could be brought to an end by the tenant at any time and by the landlord on the occurrence of an event that was within the control of the tenant. The court had given leave to appeal to the House of Lords.

Since it was not possible to distinguish the arrangement in the present case from that in *Prudential*, the court found that the termination of the term of uncertain duration being in the control of the parties, and *Ashburn* was binding on the court, the conclusion had to be that Mr Morgan had a tenancy.

Lord Justice Ralph Gibson and Lord Justice Staughton delivered concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Rowe & Maw for M. R. Stephenson, Bedford; Allen & Overy.

Public wardship jurisdiction ends

In re C (a Minor)
Before Sir Stephen Brown, President
[Judgment November 7]

Since the Children Act 1989 came into force on October 14, 1991 the High Court ceased to have jurisdiction over wards of court who had been committed to the care of a local authority under section 7(2) of the Family Law Reform Act 1969. By virtue of section 31 of the 1989 Act the minors were in the care of the local authority.

The effect of paragraph 1(1) of Schedule 14 to the Act meant that any applications relating to former wards should be made to the family proceedings court. Sir Stephen Brown, President of the Family Division, so stated when giving judgment in open court following a hearing in chambers of a mother's application for a defined access order to her son, a ward of court, who had been committed to the care of a local authority under section 7 of the Family Law Reform Act 1969.

Section 100 of the 1989 Act provides: "(1) Section 7 of the Family Law Reform Act 1969 (which gives the High Court power to place a ward of court in the care, or under the supervision, of a local authority) shall cease to have effect."

Paragraph 1 of Schedule 14 to the 1989 Act, as amended by paragraph 33 of Schedule 16 to the Courts and Legal Services

Act 1990, the Children Act 1989 (Commencement and Transitional Provisions) Order (SI 1991 No 238), the Children Act 1989 (Commencement Order No 2 - Amendment and Transitional Provisions) Order (SI 1991 No 290), provides: "(1) Subject to sub-paragraph (4), nothing in any provision of this Act (other than the repeals contained in sub-paragraph (2)) shall affect any proceedings which are pending immediately before the commencement of that provision."

Paragraph 15 of Schedule 14 provides: "(1) Sub-paragraph (2) applies where immediately before the day on which Part IV comes into force, a person was ... (e) in care by virtue of an order under ... (ii) section 7(2) of the Family Law Reform Act 1969; ..."

"(2) Where this sub-paragraph applies, then on and after the day on which Part IV commences ... (a) the order or resolution in question shall be deemed to be a care order ... and the provisions of this Act shall apply accordingly, subject to paragraph 16 of Schedule 14; ... (5) ... where a court, on making the order, or at any time thereafter, gave directions ... (6) in the exercise of the High Court's inherent jurisdiction with respect to children, as to the exercise by the authority of any powers, those directions shall continue to have effect (regardless of any conflicting provision in this Act other than section 25) [secure accommodation] until varied or discharged by a court under this sub-paragraph."

Mr Ian Karsten, QC, for the guardian *ad litem*, counsel solicitor for the President, which by order cannot be identified; Mrs Rozanna Malcolm for the mother.

THE PRESIDENT said that the application before the court had been purported to be made in wardship proceedings. On September 2, 1991 the mother had issued a summons seeking access to her son who was defined access to the care of the local authority under section 7(2) of the 1969 Act.

In October 1989 Mr Justice Ewbank had given the local authority leave to place the minor with long term foster parents with a view to adoption but had ordered that the mother could continue to have access at the discretion of the local authority.

The court had to consider the effect of the 1989 Act on the order. Under section 100 of that Act section 7 of the 1969 Act ceased to have effect.

Section 91(4) of the 1989 Act brought wardship proceedings to an end in the public domain. There could still be private wardship proceedings.

So the court had to consider the effect of paragraph 1(1) of Schedule 14 to the Act other than section 25) [secure accommodation] until varied or discharged by a court under this sub-paragraph."

Mr Karsten had invited the court to adopt a broad approach and said that all wardships not intended that all wardships in which the issue of control had been determined in favour of the local authority should cease for all purposes.

But that was exactly what Parliament had intended. From October 14 the High Court no longer had jurisdiction over wards of court placed in the care of the local authority under section 7 of the 1969 Act.

However, in the present case, Mr Justice Ewbank had given directions in October 1989 and by virtue of the transitional powers in paragraph 15 of Schedule 14 the court could consider the matter and would approve the agreed order for contact.

It would be appropriate for the clerk to justices to transfer a matter relating to a former ward of court from the family proceedings court to a district judge with a view to transfer to the High Court. It was also advisable that the Official Solicitor should continue to act as guardian *ad litem*.

Solicitors: Official Solicitor, Director of Legal Services to the Lord Chancellor, Evans Butler Wade, Greenwich.

Contempt by inspecting court file

Dobson and Another v Hastings and Others
Before Sir Donald Nicholls, Vice-Chancellor
[Judgment November 8]

A person committed a contempt of court if he inspected documents on a court file with the intention of using them for a purpose other than that for which they were disclosed.

Sir Donald Nicholls, Vice-Chancellor, so held in the Chancery Division dismissing a motion for committal issued by Mr Anthony Dobson and Mr Keith Woodward against Mr Max Hastings, editor of *The Daily Telegraph*, Miss Antonia Feuchtwanger, a journalist employed by *The Daily Telegraph*, and *Daily Telegraph* plc.

Mr Angus Glenzie, QC and Miss Kirsten Houghton for the plaintiffs; Mr Charles Gray, QC and Mr Andrew Caldecott for the defendants.

THE VICE-CHANCELLOR said that *Homes Assured Corporation* plc went into liquidation in 1989 with a substantial deficit. The Official Receiver subsequently brought proceedings under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 against Mr Dobson and Mr Woodward, two of whom were Mr Dobson and Mr Woodward.

In the course of those proceedings the deputy official receiver submitted a report to the High Court on August 28, 1991.

The first issue was which rules governed the inspection of documents on the court file relating to proceedings under

the 1986 Act. His Lordship held that such inspection was governed by the Rules of the Supreme Court and not the Insolvency Rules (SI 1986 No 1925).

Under Order 63, rules 4 and 4A of the Rules of the Supreme Court, a person permitted to inspect the court file was entitled to search for, inspect and take a copy of the originating summons.

The Official Receiver's report, however, stated that he had inspected and copied with the leave of the court, which might be granted on an *ex parte* application.

The court file was not a publicly available register. It was a file maintained by the court for the purpose of proceedings. Access to the file was restricted. Non-parties had a right of access only to the extent provided in the rules.

The purpose underlying that restriction was that if and when disclosure was made in open court their contents would be generally available, but until then the filing of documents should not of itself render generally available what otherwise would not be. Many documents filed in court would be confidential to the parties and would be of day to day business.

Miss Feuchtwanger, the banking correspondent of *The Daily Telegraph*, went to the High Court in order to see the originating summons. She was told she would need leave from the registrar.

A court clerk handed her several folders and told her to take them to the registrar. She was told she could not look inside them. She looked inside

and saw that one of the folders contained the Official Receiver's report.

While she had to wait in a waiting room for 40 minutes to see the registrar she read the report and made copies of notes from it openly in the presence of the registrar. She then admitted to the registrar that she had done so because she thought that the permission she was about to get was a mere formality.

It was clear from Order 63, rule 4 that, save when permitted under the rules, documents on the court file were not intended to be inspected or copied.

Did a person commit a contempt of court if he inspected a court file without having obtained the leave which he was entitled to? The answer to that question was that it was a contempt of court if he did so.

Of course, in the ordinary way a failure by a party to comply with an obligation imposed on him by the rules was not a contempt of court. The court had to consider whether the actions of the defendants were such as to constitute a contempt of court.

The court had to consider the effect of the 1989 Act on the order. Under section 100 of that Act section 7 of the 1969 Act ceased to have effect.

Section 91(4) of the 1989 Act brought wardship proceedings to an end in the public domain. There could still be private wardship proceedings.

So the court had to consider the effect of paragraph 1(1) of Schedule 14 to the Act other than section 25) [secure accommodation] until varied or discharged by a court under this sub-paragraph."

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However, in the present case, Mr Justice Ewbank had given directions in October 1989 and by virtue of the transitional powers in paragraph 15 of Schedule 14 the court could consider the matter and would approve the agreed order for contact.

It would be appropriate for the clerk to justices to transfer a matter relating to a former ward of court from the family proceedings court to a district judge with a view to transfer to the High Court. It was also advisable that the Official Solicitor should continue to act as guardian *ad litem*.

Solicitors: Official Solicitor, Director of Legal Services to the Lord Chancellor, Evans Butler Wade, Greenwich.

Building society interest in seized property

Regina v Chapman
Before Lord Justice Taylor, Mr Justice Gagehouse and Mr Justice Auld
[Judgment November 1]

Where a house was purchased by a wife, partially with a gift from her husband of money deriving from his drug dealing, and partially with a mortgage from a building society, the amount which was to be included in respect of the house in a confiscation order made on the basis of the husband's conviction of the offence of drug trafficking was to be calculated in accordance with section 5 of the Drug Trafficking Offences Act 1986.

For the purposes of that calculation the building society came into the category of "any other person [who] holds an interest in the property" and section 5(4) required the amount owing to the society to be deducted when valuing the house.

The Court of Appeal so held when allowing an appeal by Brian Chapman against a confiscation order in the sum of £120,015.36 made on March 16, 1990 by Judge Pullinger at Maidstone Crown Court, after August 11, 1989 of conspiracy to evade the prohibition on a controlled drug, cannabis, on which he was sentenced to seven years imprisonment. The amount of the confiscation order was reduced to £104,817.94.

Miss Anna Worrall, QC and Mr Patricia Hitchcock, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals for the appellant; Mr Mukul Chawla for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE TAYLOR, giving the reserved judgment of the court, said that the judge had assessed the realisable asset of the house as the value of the house to the wife by starting with the current market value of the house free from incum-

brances (£150,000) and dividing it in the same proportion as the husband's gift (£58,000) bore to the original purchase price (£278,000). That produced the formula 58/78 x 150,000, that is, £111,540.

Miss Worrall argued that that ignored section 5(4) of the 1986 Act. The building society came into the category of "any other person [who] holds an interest in the property", so the value to the wife was the market value of her beneficial interest in the property (£150,000) less the amount required to discharge the mortgage which was an incumbrance of that interest (£20,335.32).

Miss Worrall contended that proceeding then to section 5(5)(b) and (6), the value of the gift caught by the Act was that value to the wife of the property, divided in the same proportion as the husband's contribution formed of the value of the house when it was purchased. That calculation produced the formula 58/78 x 150,000 - 20,335, that is, £94,403.

The difficulty with that approach was that one was not comparing like with like. The original price included two components: the deposit, which was the amount given by the husband, and the amount

covered by the building society advance (£20,000).

The figure of £129,646 used in Miss Worrall's calculation did not represent both components included. On the other hand it did not represent the increased value solely of the first component.

Although the mortgage debt remained almost unchanged, the increase in value of the house must be partly attributable to the increase in value of the amount advanced by the building society.

The judge's starting figure was the updated equivalent of the original purchase price, but his formula gave no effect to section 5(4). On the other hand Miss Worrall's approach might be thought to involve an excessive reduction in the updated value of the gift, and it might well appear over-favourable to the appellant.

However, effect must be given to section 5(4), and, bearing in mind that those provisions were penal, they should be construed, that is there was no doubt, in favour of the appellant.

Miss Worrall's approach would, therefore, be adopted, and the confiscation order amended accordingly.

Solicitors: Solicitors, Customs and Excise.

Improper move to thwart judicial review case

Regina v Reading Justices and Others, ex parte South West Meat Ltd
Before Lord Justice Watkins, Lord Justice Mann and Mr Justice Roch
[Judgment October 30]

It was unlawful and thoroughly improper for a respondent to a writ of *habeas corpus* to be granted to apply for judicial review to move to have the action proceed as if started by a writ short time before the hearing was due, in a move designed to prevent the hearing from occurring.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so stated when refusing the application of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to have an application for judicial review by South West Meat Ltd of a decision by the intervention Board for Agricultural Produce pursuant to as begun by writ.

Mr Gerald Levy and Miss Monica Carr-Frisk for South West Meat; Miss Clare Montgomery for the intervention Board.

LORD JUSTICE WATKINS said that premises of the ap-

plication had been entered and searched by inspectors of the intervention Board on a warrant granted by Reading Justices under section 6 of the European Communities Act 1972. In the course of the search officers were alleged to have abused their powers to a considerable extent.

Because the actions of the board could have serious and serious harm to the reputation of the company, they claimed exemplary damages and the quashing of the warrant, said on its face to be badly flawed. They also sought a declaration that the search and seizure of documents and their retention was unlawful.

Mr Justice Pill, who had granted leave to apply, had given the ministry 56 days to file affidavits in reply to copies of affidavits from the applicants. No affidavits had been supplied.

The 56 days had expired on the October 15 and on day 55 there was no sign of them but the board then moved to have the application for judicial review proceed as a private action, with costs to the board in any event.

If it was the intention of the

board not to comply with the order, Mr Justice Pill then there were ways of indicating their intention: they should come back to court.

Instead they chose the course of moving to get the Divisional Court to give them the advantage of (i) not having to file affidavits, (ii) having the proceedings delayed, and (iii) there were criminal proceedings never took place at all.

The board asserted that a declaration would embarras the criminal proceedings which were or might be in prospect, although there was no certainty that there would be prosecutions.

It was unheard of, once leave was given to apply for judicial review, that it had never been the practice to make a pre-emptive strike against the hearing of the application to that it did not happen. It was inappropriate and wholly wrong.

Lord Justice Mann and Mr Justice Roch agreed.

Solicitors: Sarjeant & Sheppard, Reading; Solicitor, MAFF.

Scots Law Report November 18

Burden of proof concession cannot be withdrawn

John Thorburn & Sons v Border Harvesters Ltd
Before Lord Murray, Lord Wylie and Lord Kirkwood
[Judgment October 24]

Where a party conceded that the burden of proof lay upon him, and a proof was conducted upon the basis of an understanding between the parties that that was the case, the concession could not subsequently be withdrawn on appeal.

Where a purchaser in a contract for the sale and installation of goods sought to reject the goods, it could not be said that it was obvious that the burden of proving that the goods were unfit for their purpose lay upon the purchaser by virtue of section 11(5) of the Sale of Goods Act 1979, as would be the case with a straightforward sale of goods.

Goalless derby underlines City's need

Heath tosses away opportunity to split open United

Manchester City 0
Manchester United 0

By CLIVE WHITE

IT WAS no coincidence that in the week that Peter Reid, the Manchester City player-manager, tried in vain to buy a goalscorer, his team should fail in its attempt to win the 115th Manchester derby for lack of one.

It was almost as if Reid could see Adrian Heath's glaring 81st-minute miss coming. Not that he needed to be much of a clairvoyant to predict it. Whatever qualities Heath has, and on the creative side they were quite substantial at Maine Road on Saturday, goalscoring is not one of them.

In the last two seasons he has scored just once. Sam Ellis, the Manchester City coach, claimed that he and Reid were not unduly concerned about Heath's clanger and other lost opportunities, though his logic was unconvincing. "The pleasing thing is that we created them and were there to miss them," he said.

Be that as it may, Peter Swales, the chairman, has said he is prepared to break the British transfer-fee record, standing at £2.9 million for Dean Saunders, to find a more prolific partner for Niall Quinn.

United were also found to be wanting again in that

department, and their championship aspirations, like those of City and Leeds United, could depend upon them finding just such a player if they are to match Arsenal's firepower. It has been for want of a finisher that United have missed the chance to pull away at the top, winning only one of their last five League games.

It does seem hard to credit that on the anniversary of his fifth year in power at Old Trafford and after spending £15 million on players, Alex Ferguson should still not have the United team exactly to his liking.

Defence has been a key area in United's success this season, and again it had to be applauded for cking out another point, if at times it was fortunate to do so. City's bright forward movement threatened to undo them, just as the lively Atlético Madrid forwards had last time out, but they survived like good, resolute defenders.

In the 69th minute, Heath appeared to have exposed their soft underbelly when he cheekily tiptoed around the outside of Bruce to pull back an inviting chance for Sheron. But the substitute's shot, though it beat Schmeichel in the United goal, was not hit firmly enough and Pallister cleared his lines.

It was when Sheron returned the favour that Heath, unmarked, somehow con-

tributed to side-foot the ball over the crossbar from just a few yards out. Ferguson put it down to the tension which can suffocate a derby.

The United manager bemoaned the number of free kicks that Quinn won on the edge of their penalty area, but he must have been pleased with the way Pallister generally contained his fellow beanpole in the duel which was always going to be critical to the outcome.

It took a couple of has-beens to bring some vitality to the game and at the same time remind one of the quality that England once had in its midfield. The English League is no better placed to withstand the loss of Reid, 35, and Robson, 34, than the national team was. One could only hope that Reid recovers swiftly from the damaged ribs which forced him to withdraw from his enthralling confrontation with Robson in the closing minutes.

"For the last ten years we've been trying to kick each other," Reid said beforehand. "He's always been too quick for me and I've always been too smart for him. I just hope he's slowing up and I am just as smart as I was."

MANCHESTER CITY: Cohen, A Hill, N. Pointon, P. Reid (sub: C. Allen), K. Carr, S. Redmond, D. White (sub: M. Sheron), A. Heath, N. Quinn, I. Wright. MANCHESTER UNITED: P. Schmeichel, P. Pallister, D. Irwin, S. Bruce, N. Webb (sub: P. Faison), G. Pallister, S. Faison, G. Blackmore, S. McClair, M. Hughes, R. Gigg. Referee: K. Hackett.



No holding back: Nigel Worthington, of Sheffield Wednesday, evades a sliding tackle by Jamie Hoyland, of Sheffield United, during the first division derby at Bramall Lane yesterday. United won 2-0. Report, page 38

Liverpool angered by pitch protest fine

LIVERPOOL have reacted angrily to the news that they have been fined £2,000 for an incident on the pitch during their UEFA Cup tie against Auxerre at Anfield (Ian Ross writes).

The UEFA fine of SwFr 5,000 came with a warning that the incident is regarded as a black mark against the club, the clear inference being that any further indiscretion may lead to severe disciplinary action.

A handful of people encroached on to the pitch during the televised game on November 6, in protest at the innocence of a Liverpool man who was jailed for his part in an armed robbery. A woman was later charged.

Peter Robinson, the Liverpool chief executive, believes that UEFA's decision to punish the club just a few months after the lifting of the six-year ban from European competition is harsh and unjust.

"I feel the protest was quite disgraceful because it had nothing whatsoever to do with Liverpool Football Club," he said. "We have been cautioned and disciplined for something that was out of our control. It is difficult to stop people encroaching in this manner unless we take a decision to rebuild the fences at Anfield. This is something which we simply cannot consider after the lessons of the Hillsborough disaster."

Spitting image does Arsenal no good

By PETER BALL

ARSENAL ended their run of three successive defeats at Boundary Park on Saturday, but as one problem receded for George Graham, another, his players' discipline, surfaced again. Both centred on his £2.5 million signing, Ian Wright.

Wright scored the goal that earned Arsenal their point four minutes from time, but his general contribution before and after the goal did nothing for his team's image. Wright, who had already been booked and was lucky still to be on the field after a clash with the Oldham Athletic captain, Earl Barrett, minutes earlier, celebrated with provocative gestures at the Oldham supporters.

As he left the field, Granada TV cameras showed him spitting at a supporter and grabbing a policeman who moved to restrain him. Only the intervention of David Seaman prevented a possibly serious incident developing.

The police reported the incident to George Graham, but are not intending to take it further, which means that Wright is unlikely to face disrepute charges from the Football Association. Arsenal, however, may feel bound to take action themselves in the light of their recent problems.

The club was fined two years ago for a brawl with Manchester United, and last year their captain, Tony Adams, was fined for making obscene gestures at the Queen's Park Rangers crowd.

On Saturday, Graham tried to play down the incident. "The crowd was spitting at all of us at the end," the Arsenal manager said, although the cameras had not captured that. "Ian just spat back but he shouldn't have done it."

Sadly, Wright's actions overshadowed a splendid game, and especially the contribution of Paul Merson, who was pulled back into midfield and threatened to wreck Oldham single-handed with his runs from deep. "Merson did things today that I've never seen from any other English player," Joe Royle said. "We changed three times to try to stop him."

Between them, Hallworth and the woodwork prevented Merson from giving Arsenal a commanding position, and

when Barlow popped up from nowhere to score his first division goal, it seemed as if Arsenal's troubled month was getting worse. It did, but not in the way expected.

Tottenham Hotspur also had to come from behind when Les Hurrell took the lead at White Hart Lane, an act so out of character that the lights went out in surprise. When they came back on after an interruption of 14 minutes, normality was restored, Gary Lineker scoring twice to raise his yen value still further, and Scott Houghton also claimed a brace. With Sheffield United winning yesterday, the result left Luton bottom.

While Japan and Alex Ferguson are being linked with Lineker, the two clubs pursuing Mo Johnston, Aston Villa

and Everton, both secured home wins over strugglers. At Villa Park, where the managers, Ron Atkinson and Neil Warnock, had a heated touch-line exchange, Dwight Yorke's goal sent Nottingham home pointless, while a twice-taken penalty by Tony Cottee and a goal by Dave Watson left Wimbledon still seeking their first win under Peter Withe.

Goals by Mel Sterland and Rodney Wallace in three minutes around the hour ended Queens' Park Rangers' resistance at Elland Road to send Leeds United back to the top of the first division.

The last-minute winner from Darryl Powell, of Portsmouth, in the 3-2 win at Swindon Town, earned his club the Barclays' performance-of-the-week award.

Johnston discusses move to Everton

MAURICE Johnston, the Rangers side that defeated Airdrieonians 4-0 at Ibrox on Saturday, had been expected to join Chelsea but the London club is unable to meet a non-negotiable asking price.

Johnston, who was left out of the Rangers side that defeated Airdrieonians 4-0 at Ibrox on Saturday, had been expected to join Chelsea but the London club is unable to meet a non-negotiable asking price. On Friday, after he had sold Mike Newell to Blackburn Rovers for £1.1 million, Kendall said he hoped to sign an experienced forward "within a matter of days".

Lineker to quit England

Gary Lineker, who secured England's place in the European championship finals next June with an astonishing goal against Poland in midweek, will end his international career after the finals. Lineker was quoted in the *News of the World* yesterday as saying: "I told manager Graham Taylor of my plans before England played Turkey at Wembley."

Lineker's club, Tottenham Hotspur, has received an approach from Japan for the England captain.

Police want tie stopped

A Swansea police chief superintendent wants the Auto Glass Trophy match between Swansea City and Cardiff City on Tuesday called off, after more than 500 supporters ran riot in the city on Saturday following Swansea's 2-1 FA Cup defeat of their neighbours.

Thirty-nine arrests were made after supporters left a trail of destruction in some of the worst scenes at Swansea for years.

Chief Superintendent Mel Poole blamed Cardiff supporters for the violence. "It was sheer gratuitous violence," he said. "They were sub-human. My experienced officers have never seen anything like it in 30 years."

He is recommending to his chief constable that Tuesday's tie should be postponed and there will be a meeting between the clubs and police tomorrow morning.

WEEKEND FOOTBALL RESULTS AND TABLES

FA Cup, first round

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FORECAST: Divisions will be very low with 18 score draws and five no-score draws. No claims required.

POOLS CHECK

Newcastle United make Sunderland pay for relinquishing possession

O'Brien's effort earns draw

Turner's woes deepen

Head and shoulders above: Hunt, of Newcastle, outjumps Sampson, of Sunderland

What is good for Cambridge may not be for football

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Smith puts Wood in the shade

Seconds out

Daigle's record

Speed skating: Sylvie Daigle, the Canadian who has been world champion five times, set a 500-metre world record of 46.72sec at a pre-Olympic short-track speed skating meeting in Albertville, France.

Italian triumph

Dane at double

Cycling: Rob Dane made Selby CC cycle-cross a double when he followed a win in the Derby on Saturday with another clear-cut victory in the Brayton Barff circuit yesterday.

McCall dies

Final line-up

Real tennis: Fiona Macintosh from Hampton Court, Caroline Dixon, of Morrell, reached the final of the George Wimpey women's handicap tournament by beating Siedentopf and I. Barnfield, respectively by 8-3.

Southern clubs provide the big upsets in FA Cup first round

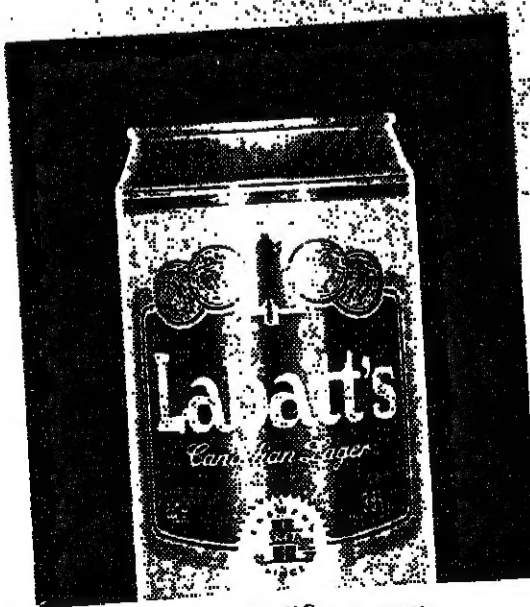
Reeves ends Emley's hopes with two goals for Bolton

turn their mince-
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Harriers tomorrow, and
Vauxhall Conference m
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"It may take away a li
of the excitement,"
Walsh, the Slough coach.
"Normally, the side
just carry on bubbling
for four days

Slough waiting for replay

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Why the Mountie
should always get
his can at
Victoria Wine.



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Businesses are not allowed to sell alcoholic drinks to persons under 18 years of age.

Crawley creep up on Foley

Whitlington's first straight after the inter-heralded a sustained assault by Northampton that broke several good saves by Whitton, but nobody could match the merciless quality of Crawley's unheralded header.

CRAWLEY TOWN: D Winterton, D S Powell, N Wickens, A Vessey, C Towner, T Hulme, D Venables. Chalfont

REPLAY DATES (7:30pm unless noted)
Nov 28: Cresco Alexandria v Carleton
Farnborough v Halesowen (7:45pm)
Effort United v Atherstone: Ref.
United v Scunthorpe United: Telford
v Stoke City (7:45pm) Nov 27: C
Flowers v Burnley, Exeter City v
United, Halesowen Town v Witton
v Slough (7:45, all tickets).

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Three cheers for

also offering a litre for
£1.50 voucher off your
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the price of a 75cl
next litre of Smirnoff
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Football is winner after treat at Upton Park

Television given a reminder of traditional virtues

West Ham United 0
Liverpool 0

By STUART JONES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE first division, hurtling at high speed towards a black hole of mediocrity, was yesterday reminded of more traditional virtues. Conveniently, the television cameras were stationed at Upton Park to beam to a wider audience the quality which has so seldom been seen even amid the England side this season.

West Ham United and Liverpool have resisted the temptation to bypass midfield and indulge in the physical warfare practiced by so many other teams. Maintaining the standards set long ago at both clubs, they still prefer to use speed of thought and movement, combined with precise control, to unhinge their opponents.

The applause that filled West Ham's compact arena in London's East End at the completion of arguably the season's finest fixture was a testament to the entertainment provided for a crowd of 23,569. Even in the absence of a goal, nobody, for once, could

complain about the fare. "Football was the winner," Billy Bonds, the West Ham manager, said. "The ball never stopped moving. Even when there was a foul, the free kick was taken quickly."

"Although the players found it tiring, it was a great game. The fact that it was on television and seen by millions of people was more important than winning."

His counterpart, Graeme Souness, was no less fulsome in his praise. "It was open, attractive and played in the right spirit," he said. "Since the long ball seems to be such a popular fashion these days, this was a good advertisement for the way that I think the game should be played."

West Ham, though still lying in the lower reaches of the first division, extended their unbeaten sequence to seven matches and the return of Ron Greenwood, their knowledgeable former manager who is now acting as a consultant, cannot be mere coincidence. Their current style is reminiscent of the days when he himself was in charge.

The partnership of Gale and Potts at the heart of their defence and the re-emergence

of Keen, as well as the goal-scoring ability of Small, who was appearing ten days after a cartilage operation, are other factors in their recovery. But for the contribution of Grobbelaar, a typical mixture of the brilliant and the bizarre, they might have added to their list of recent victims which have included Arsenal and Tottenham Hotspur.

Saves from McAvennie, Small and Keen in the first half and from Gale in the second earned Grobbelaar a magnum of champagne as the man of the match. A month ago, it was thought that his protracted stay at Anfield might be about to end, but his replacement, Hooper, has been unavailable and he has re-established himself.

Souness paid tribute to his goalkeeper after the game: "He deserved the award and made only one mistake when he sauntered almost into their half," he said.

Grobbelaar's embarrassment would have been more profound if Small, standing on the edge of the area, had been able to turn into the unguarded net. Keen's speculative drive from some 40 yards.

Miklosko distinguished himself by blocking attempts from Walters before the interval and from Molby after it. Yet he was fortunate that a menacing cross from Burrows eluded the outstretched foot of McManaman, the youngster who was preferred to Britain's most expensive player.

The future of Saunders, who was dropped for Liverpool's stirring victory over Auxerre in the UEFA Cup, was believed to be in doubt. Souness, in spite of omitting him for the first time in the League, insisted that no inquiries have been made for the forward bought during the summer for £2.9 million. Nor, apparently, are there any plans to sell him.

The Liverpool manager accepts that Saunders has suffered from the lack of continuity caused by "horrendous" injuries. The misfortune may soon end. Mark Wright will be in action again this week and Barnes, who is back in training, may return before Christmas. Whelan will be examined by a specialist in a few days.

FA Cup reports, page 37
Other football, page 36



Rough and tumble: McMahon, of Liverpool, tangles with Bishop, of West Ham, in the teams' exciting encounter at Upton Park yesterday

United have best of Sheffield derby

Sheffield United 2
Sheffield Wednesday 0

By CLIVE WHITE

TWO calamitous defensive mistakes, including one by Chris Woods, the England goalkeeper, may have handed United an unexpected victory in the Sheffield derby at Bramall Lane yesterday but it was no more than the home team deserved. Indeed, Wednesday were fortunate not to have been beaten by more.

It moved United off bottom place in the first division and gave rise to the thought that they might yet avoid the fatal attraction of relegation as they did last season. But that is for tomorrow. Yesterday was for savouring a special victory as the two sides met for the first time in the first division in 23 years.

Whether or not it was the return of Brian Deane, the England forward, after an absence of nearly 10 months with glandular fever, which inspired them, but United were admirably positive for a side in their predicament. Not for the first time Wednesday were found wanting in terms

of commitment. By the end they had lost their shape and discipline too, and Warhurst was fortunate to receive only a yellow card for a blatant example of the professional foul on Bryson.

"I was very disappointed in our performance," Trevor Francis, the Wednesday manager, said. "That is not the way to play a derby. They played with far more passion than we did. It was quite evident that a lot of our players had never played in a derby game of this proportion."

THE Wales manager, Terry Yorath, today reacted philosophically to the news of Dean Saunders' three-match ban for violent conduct.

The Liverpool forward received the Uefa ban last night after he was sent off during the Wales European championship defeat in Germany, last month, for a tackle on the midfielder player, Thomas Doll. Saunders has already served the first of those matches, by missing the 1-0 win over Luxembourg in Cardiff, on

Wednesday. Yorath said: "It is what we expected - but if we don't go through to the finals in Sweden at least it means that he won't miss any of our World Cup qualifying matches."

"He can still play in friendlies and I still intend to use him because effectively he is not banned until 1994 when the next round of European championship qualifiers start."

Wales will qualify for the finals in Sweden next summer if Germany lose any of their last two group five matches. Saunders would miss their first two games of the finals in Sweden.

Having completely missed a corner from Bradshaw he knew little about what followed as Deane's header was cleared off the line by King and then rebounded of Woods' head for another corner.

Wednesday's comedy of errors took on more serious consequences for them when, nearly three minutes into first-half injury-time, Warhurst collided heavily with Sheridan, leaving Gannon free to put Bryson clear. Woods could only parry his shot into

the path of Whitehouse who scored easily. It was a good day for Tracey, recently restored after a shoulder injury, to stand his corner. One save he made in the 58th minute proved to be the turning point.

Williams had suddenly come alive on the right wing and when he danced around Cowan the goal yawned before him. However, he chose instead to lay the ball off to Wilson whose close range shot was brilliantly smothered by the goalkeeper.

Saunders banned by Uefa

THE Wales manager, Terry Yorath, today reacted philosophically to the news of Dean Saunders' three-match ban for violent conduct.

The Liverpool forward received the Uefa ban last night after he was sent off during the Wales European championship defeat in Germany, last month, for a tackle on the midfielder player, Thomas Doll. Saunders has already served the first of those matches, by missing the 1-0 win over Luxembourg in Cardiff, on

Wednesday. Yorath said: "It is what we expected - but if we don't go through to the finals in Sweden at least it means that he won't miss any of our World Cup qualifying matches."

"He can still play in friendlies and I still intend to use him because effectively he is not banned until 1994 when the next round of European championship qualifiers start."

Wales will qualify for the finals in Sweden next summer if Germany lose any of their last two group five matches. Saunders would miss their first two games of the finals in Sweden.

But the ban relates only to European championship games so he is eligible for World Cup qualifying ties. Germany face Belgium in Brussels, on Wednesday, and meet Luxembourg at home on December 17, needing three points to edge Wales out and qualify. Yorath will be in Brussels.

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Inspired Sampras reaches new peak

FROM ANDREW LONGMORE
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT
IN FRANKFURT

FOR the second time since the Masters moved from New York to Frankfurt and became the ATP Tour Championships, the champion will be an American. That much was assured as soon as Ivan Lendl was thrashed by Pete Sampras in the first of the two semi-finals, the biggest humiliation Lendl has suffered in 12 years and 50 matches at this event.

The absence of the defending champion, Andre Agassi, emphatically beaten by Jim Courier in the other semi-final, has also deprived the Germans of a consolation for the defeats of their two champions - Boris Becker and Michael Stich - in the qualifying group. Agassi, at least, puts on a show. Sampras, and his best friend, Courier, might warm the hearts of the ticket touts in Florida or California, but not those outside the

Festhalle in Frankfurt. Courier, though, has well understood the irony of the American dominance in tennis. "It's the green stuff that makes the world go around," the top seed said after his 6-3, 7-5 win over Agassi. "I think there is more of it over here than there is in New York. That seems to be the pattern now. Tennis is following the dollar. And the deutschmark. Germany will host the championships for another four years."

The Germans are not quite sure what to make of Sampras. He plays brilliant tennis, but with the casual air of a man digging a hole in the road. He serves, like Becker, with a siletto finality, and hits his ground strokes with such hypnotic rhythm, opponents and audience are reduced to dumb admiration. If any tennis player would whistle while he worked, it would be Sampras.

Even amid the tension of his tie-break against Becker in

their group match, with the whole hall waiting to explode at every error, he refused to cast off his ring of calmness. Three times he rifled returns back to Becker's shoelaces, twice more he gently stroked backhands down the line, once he met a full-blooded Becker return with an Edbergian deadening of the wrists on the volley. Then, having taken the



Sampras: superb display

one set he needed to qualify, he put his feet up and let the match float away. Later he described Becker as the No. 1 player in the world. "I tend to be a bit more up and down than he is," Sampras explained.

Put the two halves of his year together and a picture of inconsistency emerges. Not able to win a match until mid-summer, he was beaten by such household names as Mark Keil (at Queen's) and Rodolphe Gilbert (Key Biscayne). Yet, from late July, he was largely unbeatable, winning two titles and reaching the final of a third, event within a month. That form has continued through the indoor season, which Lendl feels is his strongest suit, and reached a climax in a savaging of Lendl on Saturday.

Had the five-times Masters champion not clawed back three games when Sampras stood at 6-2, 5-0, the beating could have been even worse

than the final 6-2, 6-3. Sampras, aged 20, admitted that he had played close to the perfect match. "Everything I hit turned to gold. It just came together."

Courier knew he had to lift his game to reach the final and the sight of Agassi, who is not exactly his cup of tea, was motivation enough to forget his listlessness and his dislike of playing indoors. Besides, there is \$1.02 million worth of green stuff to be won.

Mark Petchey, of Britain, continued his recent improvement, by winning a \$25,000 challenger event in Christchurch, New Zealand, yesterday. The unseeded Petchey, who made such a successful Davis Cup debut against Thomas Muster in September, beat Feronix Whiter, of the Netherlands, 7-5, 7-6.

Hutchins's plea, page 33

Clash over racing authority

By RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT

A CLASH between the Jockey Club and the rest of racing over the shape of a new governing body to run the sport appears inevitable.

A confidential blueprint prepared by the Horseracing Advisory Council (HAC), the sport's representative think-tank, recommends a wide spectrum of nominees should be on the main board of a new body, including trainers, jockeys, vets, and breeders.

The HAC paper is in marked contrast to the Jockey Club's thinking on power-sharing. Racing's present rulers believe any new body should consist mainly of themselves, owners and racecourse representatives.

HAC proposals, page 35

Outspoken Higgins tests snooker's patience

By PHIL YATES

ALEX Higgins is in trouble again. Suspended for the whole of last season after a series of disciplinary infringements, Higgins faces a call that he be banned permanently from snooker following his eccentric behaviour at the UK Open on Saturday.

Higgins's antics during and after his match with Stephen Hendry, the world No. 1, prompted one board member of the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association (WPBSA) to describe Higgins as "a demented, raving lunatic" and a bizarre evening was capped by a

soliloquy from the Irishman, a perfect counterpoint to Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, which was playing in an adjoining chamber at the Preston Guildhall.

Ian Doyle, a WPBSA board member, alleged that Higgins used abusive language to Hendry as the players shook hands at the end of their fourth-round match. A complaint about remarks Higgins made during the match will be submitted to the WPBSA, the game's governing body, by Hendry, who won 9-4. John Street, the referee, and Ann Yates, the tournament director, also will be reporting Higgins for his behaviour.

Doyle, who is also Hendry's manager, claimed that Higgins approached Hendry during the interval and said: "Hello, I'm the devil." In Doyle's view, that constituted intimidation.

Higgins's version of events was somewhat different. "I'm afraid I didn't say that. I just said, 'well done Stephen, you were a bit lucky,'" he said.

Higgins had been reluctant to conduct his mandatory post-match press conference in front of a BBC television film crew.

Following a heated discussion with Yates, he reluctantly but could not resist an act of defiance, turning his coat inside out to display an obscene logo. Higgins, aged 42, then embarked on a rambling criticism of everything from the referee and the size of the pockets on the table to the administration of the game. At one point he referred to "names that shall remain nameless" and mentioned people as diverse as Will Carling and Peter Alliss.

Displaying the magnanimity of a spoiled child, Higgins said: "I am the hurricane which came from nowhere and made this game popular."

In a reference to Hendry, Higgins said: "The Golden Broom - golly gosh! I was a boy

wonder ten times better than him or Davis! I'll come back to sort these guys out."

"I can only say one thing about Stephen Hendry. Jimmy White or Steve Davis. I'll be doubly ready next time I play them because my game is back." But after this latest outburst, there may not be a next time.

Doyle said: "He's a demented, raving lunatic. Snooker is bigger than Higgins. He has to be removed from the game. He's a menace to himself and everyone around him."

Higgins's suspension last year resulted from "infringements including physically

assaulting an official at the world championship" and threatening to have Dennis Taylor "shot" at an earlier tournament.

Hendry admits that he has no respect for Higgins as a person but, as with others, respects the skills which brought Higgins the world championship in 1972 and 1982.

Higgins remains, arguably, snooker's biggest attraction. But few within the game would mourn his departure.

Yesterday's play, page 34
